Doomsday Preppers – Prologue

It doesn't make a lot of sense to play the Lottery; the odds of winning the Mega Lotto (1 in 175,711,536) are against you. It had become a habit, buying a 6 pack of Coors and a 10 choice Quick Pick every Tuesday and Friday after I got off work. A few times I won a little… not enough to pay taxes on. Rarely did it cover the cost of the ticket.

In the extreme unlikelihood I won, I intended to quit my job and get the hell out of the People's Republik. When I got out of the Air Force at age 38 in March of 2001, I had a job lined up with a security company based in Lancaster.

My home of record was Clinton, Missouri… southeast of Kansas City. Dad worked for KCPL at Montrose Station. Mom was a stay-at-home mom and I was the oldest of three children. I was named after my father, Robert James Vitter and my family nickname was *Junior* because I was Robert James Vitter, Jr. Sandra aka *Sandy* was in 9th grade and Linda aka *Lyn* was in 6th grade when I was in 12th grade. Both are married now.

We were spaced out about 3 years apart intentionally so the folks never had more than two of us in college. An average student with a GPA of 2.88, I wasn't interested in going to college. So, I made the rounds and talked to the recruiters, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force. I chose the Air Force because they guaranteed me a spot as a Security Policeman.

I got an apartment in Lancaster when I got out and furnished it mostly with used furniture. The only new items were the box springs, mattress and the gun safe. I bought that from The Gun Shop. My collection was small and most had been purchased in other states.

For hunting, I had a Remington 700 ADL in .308, a 26" barrel for my Mossberg 590A1 and my used Winchester 9422 in .22LR. For personal defense, I had a Springfield Armory Super Match with synthetic stock and Harris bipod, the original 20" Mossberg barrel with ghost ring sight and bayonet, a Kimber custom TLE/RL II with a Surefire light and a Walther PPK in .380.

Imagine my surprise… I won the Mega Lotto, $200 million dollars, before taxes. It was Sunday morning and I'd just returned from church and decided to check. California indicated there was a sole winner and I had the ticket in my hand. It sort of rattled, I was shaking so bad. I checked it and checked it again. Every time I checked produced the same results; I'd won and wouldn't have to share the winnings with anyone except for the IRS because Lottery winnings are exempt from California Income Tax.

I took the ticket back to the 7-11 and had it run. The raghead was happier than I was, if that's possible. Don't believe all of that crap that we're going to war with Iran; most of them are over here. We hadn't been in Iraq all that long and Afghanistan looked like we'd have the same luck as the Russians. At least the Taliban was out of power.

RED BUD, Ill. - The tiny Illinois farm town of Red Bud is the kind of place with few strangers and few secrets. Yet the community of 3,700 has a lingering mystery on its hands: Who bought the winning Mega Millions lottery ticket, and why hasn't the winner of the world-record $656 million jackpot come forward?

Though secrecy surrounds the ticket sold at the MotoMart convenience store, lottery officials note it's not unusual for winners to lay low – and those who advise them say it's just plain smart.

It's exactly what the Kansas winner of the March 30 Mega Millions drawing decided to do. Kansas Lottery Director Dennis Wilson said the person came to the agency's Topeka headquarters Friday morning with an attorney and some financial advisers. Wilson said the person does not want to be identified, even by gender – something Kansas law allows.

"They obviously don't need the publicity," Wilson said. "They're not used to the publicity of where they're from, where they live."

A third winning ticket was sold in Maryland, and questions fester about a woman claiming to have it.

For all of its promise, instant riches come with a price, starting with the immediate barrage of calls from relatives and distant friends eager for a handout. Never mind the need to hire specialists to address tax implications and craft a disciplined investment strategy that could avoid the fate of past lottery winners who've spectacularly burned through vast fortunes or found they were better off before they struck it rich.

"I'm so happy I'm seeing this. This is exactly what they should do," said Susan Bradley, a Florida certified financial planner and founder of the Sudden Money Institute, a resource center for new money recipients such as lottery winners. "Some people are really afraid – scared of blowing it, losing who they are and being taken advantage of. Hopefully, they're getting their ducks in a row and starting to settle into the magnitude of the experience.

"If you understood how unbelievably complicated this is, you might not play," she added. "That's not to say that winning is a bad thing. (But with a jackpot), all your old problems are over and all your new ones are just starting."

Some states, such as Kansas, don't require winners to reveal their identities. Even in those that do, winners can find ways to stay out of the public eye.

In Rhode Island, Kathleen Last took nearly a month before claiming a $60 million Powerball prize on Tuesday, then had her attorney, Edmund Alves, pose alongside the oversized lottery check during the official announcement. While her name and hometown were required to be revealed, Last was under no obligation to speak publicly

about the lump-sum payout she chose – $25.6 million after taxes, with some of that windfall intended to help a disabled niece requiring expensive care.

"It's a natural human wish to maintain privacy when you have a lightning bolt strike you and you have a life-changing event," Alves told The Associated Press on Friday. "There are a lot of people approaching you from all sides for donations, gifts and whatever, and you want to just stay under the radar. She's been trying to maintain some normalcy and stay out of the limelight as much as possible."

In Maryland, the spotlight has been on Mirlande Wilson, a McDonald's worker who has claimed to have one of the winning Mega Millions tickets, only to tell NBC News on Thursday that she misplaced it. Her attorney, Edward Smith Jr., said the attention caused Wilson's blood pressure to spike and has kept her seven children from playing outside.

"She still wants to go back to her life and be anonymous," Smith told reporters. "Let's be human about this. It's just money, people."

In Illinois, big jackpot winners are compelled to make themselves public to prove the lottery is paying out its prizes – something that wasn't done decades ago when such games of chance were scams, Illinois Lottery Superintendent Michael Jones said. Though the lottery could insist winners do a news conference, Jones said officials offer some wiggle room to those who want privacy.

"We will work with whoever the prize-winner is," he said. "But we would publicize as much as we can about the winner as is needed," and "ultimately an enterprising reporter can find out who that person is."

Maryland Lottery spokeswoman Carole Everett said of eight Mega Millions winners there since 2002, only a man named Ellwood "Bunky" Bartlett made his identity public. One couple and a woman who won initially came out but later asked that officials remove their names from publicity materials, Everett said.

Bartlett and about a half dozen other recent US lottery winners did not return telephone messages seeking comment for this story.

"It's so hard for a lottery winner not to go out and shout it to the world," said Bradley, the Florida financial planner.

Some winners, for whatever reason, don't ever claim their prize.

For example, a winning Powerball ticket worth $77 million sold last summer in Georgia ended up expiring in December after no one came forward within the required 180 days, making it the state's largest unclaimed ticket since the lottery began in 1993. The unclaimed money was returned to each of the nearly three dozen participating Powerball states.

I got the stub from 7-11 stating that my ticket was a winner and waited until Monday to find a CPA. I worked the swing shift and had more than enough time. He recommended an attorney and we three would present the winning ticket to the California Lottery Commission. Before playing Mega Lotto, I played Super Lotto Plus. They had only started Mega Lotto in 2005. The odds were far worse in Mega Lotto, but the reward was potentially much higher.

On the advice of the CPA, we had California withhold 40% for the IRS. He said it was better to over withhold and get a refund than under withhold and owe a big chunk of money. Before I could take the time to present the ticket to California, I had to clear my work schedule.

“John, I’m here to tender my resignation effective immediately.”

“Get a better job?”

“Nope, won the Mega Lotto and the CPA and I figure the immediate cash payout is $114,660,000 in round numbers after withholding. So, long story short, I’m getting the hell out of the People’s Republik.”

“Where are you going?”

“I’m not sure. It will be Arizona, New Mexico or the Texas panhandle. Basically whichever has the least restrictive gun laws.”

“Arizona. Look around in the northern portion of the state, Phoenix is hotter than a pistol in the summer. Plus Palo Verde is about 50 miles west of the city. If it were me, I’d locate along I-40. Are you going to retire?”

“I haven’t decided. Maybe I’ll open up a security company of my own.”

“Why?”

“Well… the corporation could acquire a class 3 license and legally own about anything we wanted.”

“An Arizona corporation?”

“Nevada. You know Nevada has fairly unrestrictive gun laws too. Maybe I could locate somewhere away from Vegas and Reno.”

“Congratulations on winning the Mega Lotto. Don’t spend it all in one place.”

“There’s a good chance I may spend a significant amount on one project.”

“Oh?”

“Yeah, I’m a beginning prepper. After 9/11, I started a small program to acquire precious metals and long term storage supplies. I’ve been buying from Walton Feed and Emergency Essentials and have a one year deluxe food supply from each company.”

“You won’t need any more firearms; you’re pretty well set in that department.”

“I am, but only up to a certain point John. With the draconian California gun laws some of the firearms I bought in other locations where I served are illegal here. At least I’ll have the money to scratch that itch and acquire the other firearms it would be nice to own.”

“For instance?”

“I’d like a .50 caliber rifle, silencers for several of the firearms and other ammunition and ordnance. You can mail the check for whatever I have coming for hours worked and my accumulated vacation time.”

“Hate to lose you Rob but I’d probably do the same if I were in your shoes. Keep in touch if you would, please. We might be able to throw some work your way if you can pick up a PI license.”

“Ok, I’ll email my new address, email and phone number.”

The CPA, attorney and I presented the winning ticket to the Lottery Commission staff and indicated the amount of federal income tax to withhold. It had already been announced that the last Mega Lotto had one unknown winner. The hard part was keeping my identity out of the media.

Both the attorney and CPA identified themselves and indicated I held the winning ticket which I presented. One is allowed to take a lump sum payment or spread the winnings over an extended time period. I’d seen the J. G. Wentworth ads on TV and wasn’t really interested in the structured settlement. When one buys a Lottery ticket, one can specify either a lump sum or the extended payout period. And, should one win, they are allowed change their option.

It was explained that the return would be greater taking the structured payout due to the how the single payment was computed. The lump sum is the amount that must be invested to produce the payout over 26 installments. They calculate the amount and take the federal withholding. The money is invested in zero coupon US Treasury Bonds. I rethought my decision and went with 26 annual payments because I wanted all $200 million. One thing affecting my change in plans was that I doubted I could spend even the annual payment and I was only 44 years old.

When the first check was available, they provided an armed escort to Wells Fargo Bank. Well Fargo said the funds would be available when the check cleared. Since I had no intentions of letting the funds sit in a checking account, I had no objections. The installments after 40% withholding were $4,615,384.62.

My final decision was to locate in the Elko, Nevada area. I got a realtor looking immediately. My first purchase with my new found wealth was to buy US gold and silver Eagles. I purchased equal quantities of the four gold Eagle denominations and the same number of silver Eagles as the total number of gold Eagle coins.

Next, I contacted a dome company from Idaho about erecting a monolithic dome as soon as I closed escrow on a property. It took about 3 months to find the ideal piece of property, 320 acres of very poor quality soil west of Elko. I contracted with a well driller to put down 5 wells. The first would supply the homestead and orchard. I intended to have a nursery contractor install the orchard. The others provided irrigation for the three 80 acre fields and the one 70 acre field. I intended to grow corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and alfalfa. There was ample room for a large garden on the 10 acre homestead.

The septic system was custom built and large enough to handle the output of a small motel or 24 homes. I had other plans and started shopping for a few of the things I intended including with the dome. The 35’ interior radius dome would be built over a 35’ interior radius basement with reinforced concrete walls, an overhead 1’ thick of concrete and 6’ of compacted earth. The dome would also be earth sheltered with a minimum of 6’ of earth and more at the bottom to permit a gentler slope and the ability to mow the grass cover.

At the top of the dome, a parapet would be raised and include merlons and crenels. They would be poured 1’ thick using reinforced concrete. A hatch acquired from either Utah Shelter Systems or American Safe Rooms would permit access to the roof from the interior of the dome.

After considering my alternatives, I went with ASR for the double 96” blast door entering the dome, Israeli air filters (FAH 480/180, Airflow: 480 CMH fresh/180 CMH filtered, Blast valve with pre-filter, ESVF 483, NBC-Filter HF 180 E, Blower LH 480/180, Overpressure Blast Valve A 483) and ASR roof access hatch. No doubt Nevada would tax my Lottery winnings the same as the IRS. So, I retained another CPA and the attorney he recommended. He told me Nevada has no individual or corporate income tax. Nevada gets most of its revenue from gambling and sales taxes. My funds were beginning to run low but there was that second payment from the Mega Lotto, less withholding, due in a few days. The second check would allow me to fence the half section, build a barn, spread and till the green manure I contracted for from several ranchers and sow a cover crop of clover.

The corral came from that company in southern California, Castlebrook Barns. They specialize in horse barns but also build covered corrals. The barn was in the planning stages and would be another dome, but with a larger radius, 60’.

When I had everything done, I kept the doublewide mobile home I'd purchased in case I got a hired hand. Looking at my bank balance, I decided I had more than enough money to scratch a few itches because the second dome was a project for the second check. I got a McMillan Tac-338 (Lapua) and a Tac-50 rounding out my sniper rifles. I'd gone through the Army sniper course about 15 years earlier when I was in the Air Force.

Those are before and after pictures of a Tac-50. The first is my rifle with optics mounted and the second is a copy of a Tac-50 with the Jet suppressor mounted. Note that this is not my actual rifle but a copy I got off the net while I was waiting for delivery.

My second purchase was a set of 6 M1A Loaded model rifles and 120 new CMI 20 round magazines. The rifles were fitted with the appropriate BDC ACOGs and the Springfield Armory leather slings. I also added spare parts kits and individual cleaning equipment. Since I personally liked the Mossberg 590A1, I added 6 of those with the Marine Corps bayonet and aftermarket slings holding 15 shells. I further added a 6 round sidesaddle and a 6 round butt cuff to each shotgun.

Both McMillan rifles were fitted with the McCann night vision sight rail, the Jet titanium suppressors and a total of 10 magazines. To that, I added the MUNS Pinnacle AN/PVS-27 I purchased from Optics Planet for all three sniper rifles. The picture of my rifle shows the MUNS mounted. I got the last 3 they had in stock, but they didn't indicate it was discontinued. A rail similar to the McCann was added to the Super Match. That left handguns and ammo. While I liked my Kimber, a Taurus PT1911 with a rail was available for much less. I went with those and 7 additional spare 8 round magazines each (they came with 2 magazines). I added Surefire lights to the pistols and bought a case of Ripoffs CO 21V dual magazine pouches.

I ordered 25 cases of Hornady 750gr A-MAX Match for the Tac-50, 25 cases of Lapua brand 300gr BTHP Match for the Tac-338 and 25 cases of Hornady 178gr BTHP Superperformance Match for my Super Match. Fortunately, I got a volume discount. The shotgun ammo I started out with was Remington 3" 15-pellet 00 buckshot and 3" 41-pellet #4 buckshot plus 3" Brenneke 1⅜oz Black Magic slugs. I already had several boxes of #2, #4 and #6 shot to use with the 26" barrel.

I don't believe I mentioned it, but my Super Match was equipped with an A.R.M.S. mount and throw lever rings to complement the Nightforce NXS 3.5-15×56 scope. I also had an ACOG with throw lever attachments. Finally, I ordered a FA762K with the muzzle brake adapter for the Super Match and a Harris bipod. I had everything close to what I wanted and was only missing a few firearms, additional ammunition, radiation equipment, PPE and communications gear.

About any all-band ham radio would work and I selected the Kenwood TS-2000 both for the base station and my vehicle. A second line of communications would be Citizens Band SSB with a Galaxy DX-2547 SSB base station radio and Cobra 148 GTL SSB mobile radio. I also wanted a good portable CB radio and got Cobra. The third line of communications would be Business Band radios from Motorola; specifically CM-300 32 band and pairs of CP-200 16 band respectively. Add to that a vertical HF antenna, a set of Mosley beams, a Diamond Discone for the scanner, the CB and Business Band base antennas and I'd be set. It was my intent to mount everything on a US Towers 89' heavy duty collapsing/fold over tower, HDX-589-MDPL and a backup 85' mast, MA-850-MDP which was stored with duplicate antennas.

The livestock dome also came out of that second check. The main level was 11,310ft² and was more than enough room for horses, cattle, hogs and chickens. I had the dome constructed over a basement with the same radius using the same construction method as the basement under my dome home. It had almost exactly what I'd set up in my basement shelter, just more. I'd used Israeli air systems for my dome so I used larger Israeli air systems (FAH 1600/6001600 Airflow: CMH fresh/600 CMH filtered Blast valve with pre-filter ESVF 1603, NBC-Filter HF 600 C, Blower LH 1600/600, 2× Overpressure Blast Valve A 803) for the barn dome and shelter.

A nuclear, biological, and chemical air filtration system is installed inside a protected space like a bomb shelter or safe room. It draws air through an inlet pipe and forces it through a filter bank consisting of a pre-filter, a HEPA filter, and a carbon gas absorber. Then the air is blown into the protected space at a higher pressure than the outside air. This creates positive pressure (overpressure) in the protected space so that all air is flowing outward. This overpressure prevents any airborne toxins from entering the protected space.

I had to settle for the radiation equipment from Arrow Tech until I got the third Lottery check. I got the first in 2006, the second in 2007 and the third was due later this year, 2008. It was election time to replace George W. Bush. According to the polls, he couldn't have gotten elected as dog catcher.

Eventually, it got down to Barak Obama as the Democratic candidate and John McCain as the Republican candidate. Obama selected Senator Joe Biden as his running mate and McCain selected the Governor of Alaska as his running mate. Some pundits were asking Sarah who? One even slipped up and called her Sarah Putin rather than Sarah Palin.

Good ol' Sarah had great credentials. She was a former city council member, later Mayor of a berg outside of Anchorage, who ran for Lieutenant Governor and was defeated. She was appointed Chairman of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and served in that post until a successful campaign running for Governor of Alaska. She was the youngest person and first woman to be elected Governor of Alaska. Many feel McCain lost the election because of his selection.

My check came in before the election and I contracted for the dome and spent the second bunch of money on the communications equipment, tower and antennas. The next portion went for nine one year supplies of LTS foods or a total of 18 years for one person from the same two sources, Walton and Emergency Essentials.

A die hard Republican, I voted for McCain. However, I can't really say I was surprised by the outcome of the election. I quickly loaded up on all the surplus 7.62×51mm and 5.56×45mm ammo I could lay my hands on. It was getting hard to find and expensive.

Why 5.56 you may ask? That's what we used in the Air Force in our M-16s and later M-4s. After giving the matter some thought, I also bought 6 Browning Hi-Powers to go with

whatever I ended up with in 5.56. I loaded up on 124gr Speer Lawman and 124gr +P Speer Gold Dot for the Browning pistols. The only knives I had were those new bayonets for the 590A1s so I ordered 6 Military Classic fixed blade knives in SK-5 and a Laredo Bowie in San Mai III for myself.

The 5.56s I could get my hands on were select fire HK G-36s with the 480mm (18.9”) barrels and AG-36 grenade launchers. With those, I could equip 12 riflemen and 2 additional snipers for a force of 15. If I equipped another 6 with shotguns, I could field a force of 21. The corporation had been formed and a class 3 license obtained. The McMillan rifles, M1As, PT1911s, 590A1s, G-36s and the suppressors were all corporate property… inventory if you will. I had completed all necessary steps and became licensed as a private investigator although I was too busy spending my Lotto money to do that. The other firearms were a pair of AWC Badlander, the Amphibian S interfaced with the Ruger Mk III pistol.

The shelters under the domes were setup before the concrete overhead was poured. I had 2 or 6 25ft^3 freezers, 2 or 3 Cummins generators. There was 30,000 gallons of buried propane, a 40,000 gallon tank for diesel and a 10,000 gallon tank for gasoline. Both tanks were full and stabilized with PRI products. The first dome had a pair of Cummins propane fueled 30kw generators and the largest gun safe I could find. The second dome shelter was triple the size of the home dome shelter and had triple the equipment. Not 6 generators but triple the power output, 3 60kw diesel generators.

Two sets of double blast doors went into the barn dome, one at the front and a second at the back. Additionally, there were stairs to the basement shelter protected by 2 ASR doors.

PV panels had been installed on the south side of the dome that could generate ~30kw and the 48vdc output was stored in a bank of 24 Exide submarine batteries in the shelter for now. The Trace inverters/charge controllers could generate the same amount of power as either of the 30kw generators. In addition, I had a 30kw 48vdc wind turbine which also fed the batteries. I didn’t have a bill for electricity; I was continually feeding power into the grid tie from the inverters.

Access to the shelter was via an ASR blast hatch under the plywood floor of the hall closet. The ladder went down about 16 feet. The hatch had been installed after the concrete cured over the hole left in the floor aligned above the hole through the concrete. At the bottom of the ladder was a small airlock with an ASR blast door which opened into the airlock. The lost space was a small sacrifice for the amount of safety it provided.

When I had everything bought and put up, I began giving consideration to stocking the barn dome. Three years of soil conditioning and an ample supply of water made it possible to raise the crops mentioned earlier. What I needed was a hired man or couple. I could put them both to work. He would acquire and tend to the livestock and she could plant, maintain and harvest the garden. I’d pay the going wage, supply housing and beef, pork, chicken and eggs together with a share of the garden produce. In addition,

he could till the soil and plant the crops which I'd help him harvest and she could clean the dome.

Come on Nibiru or Yellowstone, I'm prepared. There is such a thing as getting over confident and it might bite me on the butt. I was in Elko placing an ad for a hired man or couple and picking up a few odds and ends from the hardware store. It was well past lunchtime and I was hungry so I stopped at a local café to get a bite to eat. I took a stool at the counter and the waitress brought the glass of water.

"Know what you want?"

"How are the burgers?"

"They run about ⅓ pound and have lettuce, tomato and onions with pickles on the side. We make our own fries and they're pretty good."

"That sounds good. Make it with cheese, and hold the onions."

"Coffee?"

"How about iced tea?"

"Regular or sweet tea?"

"Regular."

"Ten minutes. I'll bring the tea."

"Here you go. I don't believe I've seen you before."

"I've lived in the area for almost 3 years. I bought a half section in 2006 and had a dome built."

"You're the guy, huh? You built a dome home and a dome barn a year later. I noticed the covered corral went in before the second, bigger dome. You have a wind turbine and solar. Bet your light bills don't amount to much."

"Actually, I sell power to the electric company."

"I suppose you have storage batteries and a backup generator."

"I have 5 generators, just in case. They're Cummins Onan RS 30000s and Cummins DGCG 72000s."

"Are they big enough to power your whole house?"

“They sure would. The elevation of Elko is, as you know, around 5,000 feet. I have to derate the output by about 20 percent for the elevation. But since they each put out lots of amps at full power, I still get more than enough. You seem to know the talk.”

“There are lots of preppers in the area. There’s Christian for Israel; and, Fleataxi lives in Spring Valley. I do some but it’s pretty difficult to accumulate much.”

“Does your husband support you?”

“If you’re asking if I’m married, the answer is that I’m a widow. So, the answer is no because he’s not around to help.”

“I’m sorry for your loss; I wasn’t inquiring about your marital status.”

“Does your wife support you?”

“Turnabout is fair play, huh? I’ve never married. I was pretty much married to my Air Force career until I got out with 20 in 2000. I worked security for a few years and then came into some money and got the heck out of the People’s Republik. Prepping can get expensive and is especially so if one tries to do it in a short time frame. Knock on wood; I think my preparations are about as ready as I can make them. My last purchase was getting the gas masks, suits, boots, tape and so forth from Approved Gas Masks.”

“I presume you have a shelter.”

“As you know, most people into prepping tend to hold their cards close to their vest. As a matter of fact, I do have a shelter with a gross footprint of about 3,850ft^2 and a second with 11,310ft^2.”

“Sorry, I won’t intrude further. Believe you me I know how most of the survivalists and preppers behave when it comes to discussing their preparations.”

“Well, since the cat is out of the bag, would you like a tour sometime?”

“Are you asking me out on a date so you can show me your etchings?”

“I… ah… oh, no. I just invited to show you my shelter.”

“You have the horses yet?”

“Actually, I came into Elko to place a want ad for a hired man or couple. I kept the doublewide I lived in while all the construction was ongoing. So no, I haven’t acquired the livestock, yet. I’ll say one thing, I started over from scratch and everything, and I mean everything, equipping my home is new. Furthermore, I intend to add onto my existing preps by acquiring backup everything. In terms of supplies, I’ll double my stored fuel

and food. In addition, I'm going to get duplicate power components except for the generators since I started with 2 at the outset and added 3 larger generators."

"What's that new building I noticed under construction?"

"Do you mean the 6-stall, 2-story concrete block garage? They have that almost done. I'm going to move the batteries to the basement with all the inverters and electrical equipment. The south facing roof will have PV panels. I'll use the second floor for storage as well as some of the garage bays. I only have two vehicles, both converted to make them prep friendly. I bought a Chevy Suburban 2500 and a Silverado 3500 heavy duty and had the engines replaced with Cummins 6BT non-electronic engines. All of the electronics are in Faraday cages to protect them against EMP.

"The transmissions were replaced with six-speed manuals and both vehicles have four wheel drives with manual transfer cases. I added a few other accessories including winches, custom bumpers and so forth. Overall they resemble stock vehicles with the exception of the winches and custom bumpers. I didn't want to spend any more on upgrading them than I had to."

"Let me know when you get the horses and I'll look at your shelter if we can go riding after. Tammy Cantrell. I'm in the book."

"Rob Vitter."

Let's see, about 5'4-5'5, about 110-15, nice figure… a little above average, maybe 40-42 and below shoulder length auburn hair. She didn't say how she became a widow nor if she had children. Great smile, friendly enough but didn't come on to me. Was Cantrell her married name or maiden name? Probably her married name if she had children.

The garage was open with beams supporting the first and second floor joists. It was framed inside with 2x6s and heavily insulated. They would be installing a small propane furnace with air conditioner to heat/cool the 3 floors. The doors were individual for each stall and as heavy duty as I could find. One bay was open to a raised lube platform with concrete stairs on one side beneath the stairs to the second floor.

The most unusual feature was the underground walkway connecting to the shelter's generator room through yet another blast door in the lube pit. It was an afterthought I came up with as a means to replace the drums of engine oil in the shelters. I had one of the ASR blast doors covering the hole cut in the shelter wall.

I got the idea for the tunnels from *Percy's Mission*. The barn dome had 3 diesel generators, but bigger at 72kw prime power. They were fed off the 40,000 gallon diesel tank and were why I was looking for a second and maybe a third tank.

From all the reading I'd done of PAW fiction, rarely did the authors mention radiation in the generator room. I'd been ahead of the curve on that one and it explained why I had

the large Israeli air filters. They supplied clean air to the shelter, to the dome and clean air to the generators and generator room. The only pipes going to the surface were for engine exhaust and air exhausts that were hooked to overpressure valves in the shelter, dome and generator room.

The generator room was just another room in the shelter although moderately large. The walls were constructed of 2×8s and after installing the walls, sound absorbing tile was added on the interior walls over ¾" drywall and foam insulation about 3" thick was shot in between the 2×8s. Over that, R-19 was added and ¾" drywall used to close up the room. The remaining rooms used 2x6s, were also insulated with R-19 insulation and used ¾" drywall for sound proofing.

The shelter had 2 bedrooms and 2 dorms, the generator room, a storage room, 2 ¾-baths, 100 gallon hot water heater (normally turned off) and a kitchen. The kitchen included a propane stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, stacked large laundry twins and a fair amount of cabinet space. The 2 freezers were in the storage room along with my accumulated LTS food and miscellaneous supplies.

There were 2 metal cabinets assembled after the fact. Both were grounded and 1 was storage for my electronics. The 2nd held medical supplies and instruments. There was the usual stuff, stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, an AED, a 10 liter oxygen concentrator, over the counter drugs and a small selection of prescription meds that had taken a long time to acquire. I finally talked the doctor into prescribing them on the condition that when they expired I'd return the medication to him and he'd write a new prescription. The medications included various antibiotics and analgesics. In addition were oral diabetes medications and insulin plus sleeping pills and anti-anxiety drugs.

There were enough boxes of syringes to handle every injectable medication including insulin syringes with fine, short needles and other syringes in 1cc, 2cc, 5cc and 10cc capacities with various gauge and length needles. Finally, there were an untold number of bandages. I rotated through anything with tape, like Band-Aids and rolls of tape because they have a definite shelf life. The cabinet had a locking door handle and a hasp and padlock due to some of the drugs I had on hand.

Yeah, I'd gotten hooked on Prepper fiction. I like Fleataxi, TOM, Jerry D Young, Grand, Halffast and Freedom of the Hills to name a few. Until I'd won the Mega Lotto, my efforts were very limited and had taken quite some time to accumulate. And then, biff, boom and bamm I had the whole shooting match with spares. The downside to taking 26 Lotto payments was that if something happened to end civilization as we knew it, I was probably up a creek. That was why my first purchase had been precious metals and I would buy more.

I was thinking about what I said to Tammy and got on the phone to see about doing some of the things I mentioned. My checkbook told me I'd have to do it in stages so I made a second propane tank my first priority. If I could get another good used 30,000

gallon tank, I'd be in good shape on that. And before I bought the other tanks and fuel, I had to get several sets of parts to rebuild the generators.

As soon as the garage was finished, I intended on getting a large supply of the filters and several more drums of oil. I was using 15w-40 in the generators and the same in my two vehicles. I didn't want to get totally tapped out because of the hired man and the livestock I intended to get. Horses, cattle, hogs and chickens were what I planned on getting. I had three freezers, one freezer about half full of meat with another quarter being taken by frozen vegetables. The meat was packaged as individual servings. I bought the vegetables in large packages and sealed the open packages with twist ties and kept them in the kitchen freezer.

I responded to an ad for a used 30,000 gallon propane tank I found searching the Internet. I learned the tank had recently been emptied, a new pressure relief valve installed and it had been sand blasted and repainted before it was pressure tested. I thought the price was a bit steep until I learned that it included shipping and delivery. There were 3 identical tanks listed, but I only bought 2 tanks and had the excavation contractor out to dig holes for 5 tanks. It was getting close to Lotto money time.

By the time I got the check, the 2 additional propane tanks were in, plumbed and covered over. With the money, I filled the propane tanks and ordered two diesel and a second gasoline tank. The pipes were put in the same time as the propane tanks and simply needed to be connected and the pumps wired in.

I also paid for 2 sets of PV panels. Half went into the shelter storage room together with the new wind turbine and Trace inverters/charge controllers and the other 30kw went on the garage roof. I had 12 drums of 15w-40 set in the lube pit and all the engine rebuild parts and filters for the generators stored on the second floor. A selection of vehicle repair parts was on shelves in the garage along with plenty of filters.

I decided it was time to run the ad again and get a cheeseburger and fries. I got them to help me on the ad and stopped in to see Tammy.

"I thought you took a wrong turn and got lost."

"Hi Tammy; nope, I've been busy with the extra tanks, fuels and what not. I still haven't found a hired man or couple and therefore don't have any livestock. The garage is done though."

"I noticed that. Are you eating?"

"I'll have a cheeseburger with fries and hold the onions."

"Regular iced tea?"

"I'll have coffee considering the outside temperature."

“There’s snow in the Ruby Mountains earlier than usual.”

“There’s a question I’d like to ask after you put in my order and get me that cup of coffee.”

“There you go. Ok, shoot.”

“Is there anywhere in the area to go riding?”

“There are 3 that I’ve heard of, Crawford Farms, Elko Guide Service and Spring Creek Association Horse Palace.”

“You haven’t been to any of them?”

“I’m afraid not. Why do you ask?”

“I thought that if there was someplace to go riding afterwards, you might like to see my shelter.”

“Still trying to show off your etchings?”

“You know… any port in a storm.”

“Saturday afternoon say 1:00?”

“You obviously know where I live so you don’t need directions, right?”

“Nope. Your order is up, let me get it.”

“There you go. Will there be anything else?”

“No thank you. Oh, dress casually on Saturday.”

“Here’s your check.”

So, naturally, I get a response to my ad and the couple wants to do the interview on Saturday afternoon. It did give me a chance to work from 2 opinions rather than my own. I suggested they come by at 2:00 and made sure they knew how to get here. I had time, so I called a cleaning service to freshen the doublewide. I hadn’t been in the place since I’d moved out except to make sure the pipes didn’t freeze and the furnace came on in the winter. The doublewide was furnished except for a freezer. The washer and dryer were lower end models that were perfectly functional but didn’t have all the bells and whistles. I had had the garbage disposal removed because of the septic.

It hasn't been pertinent until now so I've not described the dome. With an interior radius of 35' I didn't really need the 2nd and 3rd floor for living space. What I did was put in two monster bedroom suites on the 2nd floor with individual full baths and walk-in closets. I used the 3rd floor for storage like most people use an attic.

The amount of space allowed for a formal dining room seating 12 with buffet/sideboard and china cabinet. The table was a one piece affair (12' Franklin Dark Cherry Traditional Veneer Conference Table) that cost me an arm and a leg and had 12 stylish chairs covered in leather (Traditional Leather Swivel Office/Conference Chair - Hardwood frame construction with Dark Cherry detailed arm supports and base caps beautifully finished in Dark Cherry. Button tufted upholstery of authentic Antiqued Oxblood). The descriptions are from the online store where I bought them. There was also a dinette/breakfast nook in the kitchen.

The kitchen boasted an oversized electric/propane refrigerator (only), a 21 ft^3 upright freezer for immediate needs, Southbend Commercial Gas Range - 60"W, 10 Burners, 2 Standard Ovens, dishwasher, trash compactor and adjoined a large pantry. There was an island across from the range for preparation. In addition, I had a dual well Frymaster 40 pound deep fat fryer. I also had a Vulcan grill for burgers and or pancakes if serving a crowd.

There were the usual countertop appliances, a Waring Conveyor Toaster which would heat up in 5 minutes, had a speed control and energy-saving standby function. It was of brushed stainless steel construction and could toast both sides at the rate of 450 slices per hour, a large upright Kitchen-Aide mixer with all the attachments, a portable Kitchen-Aide hand mixer, a pasta roller and a pasta extruder. There was a Gas Pizza Deck Oven - 1 Deck, 66"Wx44"D Interior and I had 4 30-quart All American pressure canners stored in the pantry along with an All American can sealer and the various attachments for every can size from 1 gallon to 1 pint. Other than a small supply of cans I kept in the pantry, the remainder was stored on the 3rd floor attic.

My coffee maker was built by Bunn and it was a commercial model with five warming plates rather than a home model. One thing I liked about it was I could get hot water for tea without messing with a boiler (teapot). It wasn't the only 240 volt appliance. My J.A. Henckels forged knives were the finest Germany had to offer and I had a commercial grade sharpener. Generally a pass on each side and a few swipes on the oval steel brought the knives back to almost razor sharp. It was the quintessential commercial kitchen.

Access to the 2nd and 3rd floors was via a wide circular staircase attached to a center support post. Beneath the stairs were storage closets, most used for junk I wanted to keep immediately at hand. The main floor also boasted a study/library, a family room with a wet bar (small refrigerator, no tap) and a formal living room. You'd be surprised how fast you can use up 3,850ft^2.

“Hi, welcome to my dome.”

“Did you say dome or home?”

“I said dome, but it’s the same difference. Let me take your jacket and we’ll start with dome.”

“Where’s the shelter?”

“You’re standing above it. However, I recently made some changes and it’s easier to access from the garage than the hidden blast hatch. The main floor is the same size as the shelter, 3,850ft². Let’s just move in the circle and you can see it all. Ok, this is the formal dining room and it seats 12. Through this door is the commercial kitchen with a breakfast nook. That door over there is to the large pantry and the door on your far left is to the main open area.”

We moved through that door after she checked out the kitchen.

“Now, the door on your right is my den/study/library and the 2nd is the family room.

“The powder room is under the main stairway. The room next to it is the laundry room with top of the line Maytag washer and propane dryer. The last room up ahead is the formal living room.

“The 2nd floor houses two identical master bedrooms with private full baths and walk-in closets. Both rooms are furnished with a sitting area and satellite TV. The only Internet connections are to my study and the shelter although the wiring is in place for 1 Gigabit Ethernet. The server is in the study and the system uses category 5e cable with a range of 100 meters. The circumference of the dome is about 220’ and that’s only about 67 meters. What do you think?”

“It’s a Palace. You must have come into a chunk of money.”

“As a matter of fact I did. Unfortunately the trust makes a single distribution each year. I’ve been following the gold and silver spot prices and gold is really depressed in relation to silver. Generally the ratio is 50 ounces of silver per ounce of gold. At the moment, it’s down to about 37 to 1. I think I may just buy some gold Eagles.

“Tammy, I had a response to my ad for a hired couple. If it wouldn’t be a problem, I’d appreciate you sitting in on the interview and bringing up anything you consider pertinent. They’re due at 2:00 and if it’s ok, we’ll wait to tour the shelter after they leave.”

“Since we can’t go riding, what did you have in mind as an alternative?”

“We could have dinner at a restaurant of your choice in Elko.”

“We could go to the Star Hotel dining room. We’ll have to change but it’s worth the effort.”

Alan and Jennifer Rowland had two children, one in 6th grade and one in 8th grade. He had been raised on a farm/cattle ranch and knew his livestock. He’d lost his job because the economy and she was employed at a coffee shop in Elko. I explained what I expected him to accomplish and ask her if she could give up her job as I was willing to hire her for multiple tasks. Those tasks including gardening, harvesting and preserving what the garden produced. In addition, I wanted her to clean the dome once a week.

I was willing to pay Alan the going wage with possible Christmas bonus and an annual review of his salary. I would acquire insurance though the corporation and it would be good insurance rather than some cheap plan. I explained that I’d been checking and intended to provide medical and dental all on my nickel. Her wage would be consistent with the going wages for domestics in the area, also with a possible Christmas bonus and their family plan health insurance.

I told him what had been done to upgrade the soil and the crops I wanted to plant. He suggested that I’d need 1 or 2 utility tractor(s), 2-3 wagons, an elevator or auger, a baler and preferably a self-propelled combine. I could buy new or good used, he didn’t care. I asked if he was willing to shop for the equipment. He was.

I explained about the doublewide and that they’d get enough beef, pork, chicken and eggs. I wasn’t going to include dairy and we’d just buy our milk and butter at the grocery store. I explained that there was room for them to house 2 vehicles in the garage and a lube pit in one bay. I was using two bays myself leaving the lube bay and another bay empty if they used two.

Then I asked the make or break question, was he a hunter and familiar with firearms. He didn’t hunt much, lacking the time. He was a veteran of Iraqi Freedom and served 2 9-month tours. He had a 12 gauge 870 Express combo and a scoped Remington 700 BDL in .308. He didn’t have a handgun or small caliber rifle. A 9-month tour made him a Marine because Army served 12-month tours.

I excused Tammy and myself and we conferred. She knew the guy and said he was a straight shooter. She didn’t have any questions that hadn’t been answered. We returned to the living room and I offered them the jobs, package deal, take it or leave it. I guess they’d talked it over while we were talking it over because they immediately accepted. They did want to see the doublewide.

The doublewide was about mid-range in terms of what was available. It had three bedrooms, 2 baths, one with a tub and the other with a shower. All they’d need was a freezer and we could share our upright until they got their own.

Alan asked what I wanted for livestock and I told him 7-8 horses, all 4-5 year old geldings broken to saddle and the tack that went with them. The beef should be Black Angus and we could breed them to increase the herd. He pointed out that Black Angus were both beef cattle and good for milking. I said I'd leave that decision up to him for the moment. The hogs could be Yorkshire, Poland China or Hampshire. We'd go for Rhode Island Reds for chickens and no roosters.

Jennifer asked about TV and Internet. I told her I'd get an extra receiver for the satellite TV/Internet. Finally, I asked when he could start. He suggested Monday and she said she'd give 2 weeks' notice at the coffee shop. He went on to say that he'd see what he could line up for livestock over the rest of the weekend. They left and I got Tammy her jacket. We went to the garage and entered the tunnel through the open blast door and I opened the shelter blast door to show her around.

"Oh my, your generators. Let the tour begin."

"Let's start with kitchen and move clockwise. You can see the kitchen fixtures. Some of the appliances are in the cupboards. To the right of that are the folding tables and chairs followed by the medical cabinet. Next to that is the cabinet for the electronics and next to that is my comm shack. Moving along, you have the storeroom with my food supplies and two large chest freezers. It also includes the airlock entrance to the shelter from the dome. As you can see, it has a ladder. When we get back in the dome I'll show you where the blast hatch is located.

"Next is a bedroom with king size bed and bedroom suite followed by 2 dorms, a male and a female and the final bedroom which is equipped like the first. The dorms have bunk beds, footlockers and wall lockers. Next we have the ¾ baths. And, finally, we're back to the generator room."

"How much food do you have?"

"Ten years of the Walton 1 year deluxe units and 10 years of Emergency Essentials 1 year 2,000 calorie units."

She peeked into the storeroom and given what she saw, entered the room. She marveled at the amount of food stored. Then she asked about the gun safe and I opened it up and let her have a peek. After casting a thoughtful eye at the contents, she eyed the safe I had to store the precious metals in.

"Precious metals?"

"Yep."

"A lot?"

"Yep."

“Am I mistaken or is all of your furniture Ethan Allen?”

“It is. I bought the good stuff so if the need arose, it could be re-covered and go on for-ever.”

She watched TV in the family room while I showered and changed into dress casual consisting of nice slacks, a blazer and dress shirt with no tie. I took a tie along as a just in case measure.

“You clean up good. I wrote directions to my place on this slip of paper. It will take me longer than 15 minutes to spiffy up. How about you pick me up in an hour?”

“You’re just to the west, huh? That would explain why you had me under observation. Fair enough, see you in an hour? Is my appearance appropriate or should I add the tie?”

“Your clothing is appropriate and you won’t need that tie. See you in an hour.”

She lived in an old ranch house about a mile or so to the west. She explained on the way to the hotel that she rented and got a real break on the rent. She cleaned up well, too.

The food was top notch and the evening entertaining and enlightening. She’d been a widow since 2006. Her husband was active duty Marine Corps and had made one too many trips to the sandbox. He developed PTSD and committed suicide. She was 41 and had developed cervical cancer young which was caught in its early stages due to a PAP smear. Consequencely, she’d undergone a partial hysterectomy and they were childless. She long wondered if their lack of children was responsible for his suicide. The doctor he had been receiving treatment from put Tammy straight on that account.

She also said she’d seen me around and thought it too forward to ask me for a date. I countered that I wasn’t into the dating scene but exceptions were always possible. She retorted that she’d enjoy dating me if I asked her out. There was entertainment in Elko but the choices were limited. What she really liked was gardening. I asked if she would be interested in helping Jennifer and I with a garden come spring and she said she’d be delighted. Until then, we could catch an occasional meal and or take in a movie.

That was the beginning of a blossoming friendship. It turned out that her husband had gotten her interested in the shooting sports and she asked if we could use some of the firearms in that gun safe when we had the chance. Specifically, she was looking for slightly warmer weather. She said she had all of the paraphernalia including ear plugs and ear muffs. She wanted to try the Browning Hi-Power and PT1911 in the handgun group and the G-36 and the M1A in the rifle group. So, one warm spring day we went shooting.

“What’s that you’re using? I mean it’s obviously a M1A but it seems different.”

“The one I brought out for you is the M1A Loaded model with a medium weight air gaged match barrel. The one I’m shooting is two notches up the food chain and is called a Super Match. It has an even heavier barrel and tighter twist in the barrel so it can shoot heavier bullets.”

“Could I try it?”

“Sure. Use my magazines; they’re loaded with my preferred ammo.”

She went through 100 rounds with the Super Match and shot from 100 meters out to 800 meters. She was an accomplished shooter, if a bit rusty.

“Oh, I like that rifle. The way you have it outfitted with Nightforce scope and the Surefire suppressor would indicate that you have a bundle tied up in it. You got your money’s worth with that one.”

“You’re right about having a bundle tied up. A person usually gets what they pay for and this is essentially the civilian equivalent of the M-21 rifle they use in the armed forces for Designated Marksmen.”

“Thanks for allowing me to try it out. I’m sure I’d have to save for years to accumulate enough to buy one. Anyway, Alan has the garden spot tilled and ready to go so we’ll start planting next week. Do you know what you want planted?”

“I’d like sweet corn to eat, not can. We can plant it in stages to have fresh corn on the table. In front of the corn I want squash and would like both acorn and butternut. In front of the squash enough potatoes for six people for as long as they’ll keep. After that, I’d like about 4 rows of regular old brown onions and 12-15 green pepper plants to eat and freeze. You might include some of those Anaheim chilies because I like Chili Relleños. I think 4-6 rows of plum tomatoes for sauce and 1 row of beefsteak to eat. We can follow those with green beans. How’s that sound?”

“You don’t want summer squash?”

“I don’t care for it, but if you like it or Jennifer indicates they like it, please feel free to plant it. One last item just occurred to me and that would be cucumbers to make pickles. I like dill, both regular and kosher, bread and butter and sweet pickles if you plant gherkins. In fact, the only regular cucumbers you need to plant are for the garlic kosher dills.”

“I obviously should grow garlic if you want garlic kosher dill pickles. I’ll eat summer squash but it’s not high on my list of choices and I especially do not like zucchini.”

Since it's obvious that Tammy and I were getting along well, I'll go back and mention Alan's adventures, trials and tribulations. I had the money but no farm equipment or livestock. He recommended used equipment and went shopping for a self-propelled combine with two heads, small and medium tractors, three grain wagons and a grain elevator.

The combine was purchased new and had a grain platform and separate corn head. A used John Deere tractor large enough to pull a 3 or 4 bottom plow was added along with the 3 new wagons with grain boxes. There was a smaller, older model John Deere utility tractor. Add a plow to the list and tandem disc and drag harrows. There was the hay mow in the barn dome to store the alfalfa, add a mower, rake and baler, but no place to store the corn, oats, wheat or soybeans. He said that even if we bought barley and had a portion of the corn and oats converted to COB to feed the horses, we needed storage for what we didn't use.

The bottom line was grain silos to hold the harvested grain and grain dryers to reduce the moisture content so it didn't spoil. Big bucks up front, but the stuff would last for years with proper maintenance. And then, there was the matter of storing the equipment out of the weather so we'd need a machine shed.

"Can you handle all of that?"

"I can handle it but Lord I hope we don't have to go through this each year."

"Almost all of the costs are one-time costs. After that, routine maintenance will keep the equipment serviceable. I'll put together a list of spare parts, filters and so forth that we should keep on hand."

"I'll buy that. You have a spending limit of $1 million dollars and if that won't do it, it will have to wait until next November."

"Are you saying you have that much money to put up up-front? Bank loans or a loan from an ACA might be difficult to obtain."

"I have the money in the bank. How are you doing on livestock?"

"I located a breeder with 8 geldings available. They're Morgans and therefore not inexpensive. There's another breeder with mixed blood saddle horses that can be had for less, but you seem to run a first class operation.

"The cattle I found are the Black Angus specified and we'll start with 4 bred cows. I can handle the milking by hand with that few. You do realize that even if you were to butcher two head a year, you're going to grow the herd with the heifers you keep and have bred."

"I expected as much, but if the herd gets to be too large, we'll sell off the excess."

“I found Hampshire hogs. Two bred younger sows should be enough to get started. Where it takes two years from birth to finishing with beef, hogs are birthed and finished twice a year. I know a good vet and have a line on a farrier for the horses.

“Finally you specified Rhode Island Red chickens and I got them without problems. We best get a chicken coop and yard ready because the pullets will be available soon.”

“You handle it for me if you would. You do all of it and if the million isn’t enough to do everything, let me know and I’ll find some more, somewhere. I know I’m the employer and you’re my employee but don’t let that stand in the way of you making suggestions of how I can help out. I may be from Missouri, but I was a city boy not a farm boy, so you really will have to show me.”

“I’m only one man here boss. I don’t know if I can get it all done by myself. I have to plow, disk and drag 310 acres. Plant the seed, hook up the irrigation if we need it and tend to livestock.”

“Can you find some part time help to get you caught up?”

“I may know a guy. I worked with him on the ranch where I worked before. Thing about it is that he’s a good hard worker but likes to drink on the weekends. When he works, he does good work but I wouldn’t suggest hiring him full time.”

“I suppose that means another mobile home?”

“Nah, he has a travel trailer he lives out of. I don’t suppose you put in hookups for propane, electric, water and septic did you?”

“The mains are in for all four plus cable for TV and Internet. However, I’d have to get an electrician and plumber out here. The plumber could dig the trench and put in the water, septic and propane and the electrician could run conduits for power and TV and Internet and hook it up. I think it might be best to space it out in case I put in another double wide rather than digging it up and moving it eventually. I’ll do that today and you can talk to the guy. What’s his name?”

“Please don’t laugh but it happens to be Melvin Purvis.”

“Where do I know that name from?”

“He identified John Dillinger when he exited the Biograph Theatre. This Melvin is no relation to the famous one.”

So, now we have Tammy and the Bachelor and Melvin Purvis, maybe. Strange things happen when I’m in the neighborhood. Moreover, I’ve yet to see an Elk wandering around on my little piece of Heaven.

Speaking of Tammy Cantrell, we seem to be growing on each other. I did what I told her I was going to do and bought some more gold Eagles. Let me tell you, they cost a whole lot more than the first batch I bought; these were $675 an ounce. I only bought 1,000 but that was a large enough purchase to get a discounted price.

I've done one or two things since I met her, too. After that day on the range, I decided I should extend my doubling up to include another Super Match with Harris bipod, Springfield Armory sling, Nightforce scope and Surefire suppressor. I got her the full set including the 590A1, a Kimber custom TLE/RL II and a Walther PPK in .380. We added a CM-300 to the combine and tractor and Alan's doublewide, vehicles and a spare, just in case. I took it a step further and bought spare CP200s 2 for 1, TS-2000s and Cobra SSB CBs and Cobra portables.

You know where I'm going with this, I'm sure. I was getting her what I had in terms of armaments and communications. I also reviewed the PPE on hand and ordered more. When I finished, I had 8 large size, 2 medium size and 2 small size masks. All the masks had the voice emitters and extra lenses. In addition, I bought several additional suit sets, plenty of tape and a few cases of replacement CBRN canisters.

Alan and I got to visiting late one day over a cold beer and he explained that he'd been a Designated Marksman. It just so happened that that conversation occurred prior to taking Tammy to the range and I stored it in the back of my mind for future consideration. While I had plenty of M1A rifles, add a leather cheek pad to a Super Match and you have the civilian version of the M-21.

Consequently when I ordered the firearms for Tammy, I included a second Super Match setup for Alan. Yeah, yeah, I know each setup ran around seven grand but I had the money at the time. I also bought her the Cold Steel Bowie like mine. Ammunition was replaced as expended and I was never without ammunition. I really like the Hornady and added another 10,000 rounds of the 178gr 7.62. As I acquired firearms, I acquired what I considered to be the minimum amount of ammo in case we ever ended up in a PAW. Oh, PAW means Post-Apocalyptic World; you know, WW III, Yellowstone, serious global pandemic or Nibiru.

I thought long and hard about it and bought one more thing, a wedding set with two bands and the kind of diamond Jerry always writes about. You know, investment grade, 1.02 carats, perfect round cut brilliant, flawless, color D with the GIA certificate. She was worth it and if she said no, I could keep the stone as an investment. Being inexperienced in these matters, I decided on a combination indirect-direct approach. At worst she'd say no and I'd have an investment. At best she'd say yes and we'd live happily ever after. The in-between part what was bothersome. She knew I had money, wanted her share and she'd say how large her share was. Sometimes you just have to roll the dice.

"Tammy, have you ever thought about getting married a second time?"

“You know Rob, I’ve had my share of come-ons at the café, but they only really wanted one thing. If I found the right guy and he asked, I might be inclined to say yes. And, if he were well off, he wouldn’t have to worry about me because I’d agree to a pre-nuptial agreement in a heartbeat. Does that answer most of your questions? What about you? Have you ever thought about getting married?”

“Once and once only,” I said slipping the ring box out of my jacket pocket. “Tammy, will you marry me?”

“Yes, in a New York minute. I was afraid you’d think I was a gold digger out to mine your gold and since you’d been a bachelor for so long would be afraid to ask. Where in the name of God did you find a ring like that?”

“I knew what I wanted for a stone and the jeweler ordered it in. He recommended a 95% platinum alloy and set the stone in the Tiffany mount for you.”

“That’s a large stone.”

“Not so much large as it is of the highest quality, an investment grade flawless stone. I suppose the next question to ask is when?”

“It will have to be two weeks from now because I’d like to give notice to the café. That said, I think we can seal the deal with more than a kiss.”

“Would you think poorly of me if I suggested we wait until after we’re married?”

“I’ll grit my teeth.”

“Alan, Tammy and I are getting married. Would you consent to be my best man or witness?”

“I’d be honored, but are you sure you want your hired man as your witness?”

“Foreman and your raise will be effective immediately. Did you hire Melvin Purvis?”

“I couldn’t find him.”

“I guess maybe we need to put in two more doublewides and put solar panels on all three. I can add another bank of submarine batteries and another wind turbine. I’m going to need more inverters/charge controllers, too. We need to place an ad for another married couple or two; unless you know someone?”

“Let me make a couple of calls? Do you want me to plow up a larger garden space?”

“Make the calls and I’ll see about buying two mobile homes and getting them setup. When you can find time, you’d better double or triple the garden space.”

“That will have to be soon. It’s planting time.”

“Fields plowed?”

“Yes they are and they’ve been disked and dragged. We didn’t buy a planter so I found a good used planter where I do most of my shopping for you. They start on the grain silos next week. You never said; do you want the Morgans or mixed breed horses?”

“Let’s go with the Morgans. I think you should get them fit with new tack. Make it rather plain and of good quality.”

“They come with it. But the breeder said you’d have to provide your own pommel bags, saddle bags, lariats and scabbards.”

“Explain that to me. What is a pommel bag?”

“It goes over the saddle horn and generally has a holster on each side for a single action revolver. Others are like smaller saddlebags. You can get quality scabbards from Kirkpatrick in Laredo, Texas along with gunbelts and holsters.”

Between what he said and what I thought, it was going to be expensive buying the extras for the 8 Morgan geldings. I was thinking 5 revolvers, a rifle and a coach gun times 8. Any brand of revolver would do provided it was in .45 Colt, which weren’t $20 anymore. Maybe I could get a volume discount on everything.

I wanted Winchester rifles in the same caliber, .45 Colt. Except Winchester went belly up the year I won the Mega Lotto. There were always the reproductions of the model ‘92s or Marlins. I went with Marlin Cowboys 1894 in .45 Colt and 1895 in .45-70 and I coach guns from Cimarron Firearms Company. I got 1878 coach gun reproduction 12 gauge and original Ruger Vaqueros in 4⅝”, 5½” and 7½”; all times 8. Next, I called Kirkpatrick and discussed leather. They could make whatever I wanted in scabbards and recommended their Laredo rig, either single holster or the cross draw rig. When I told her the firearms I had on order, she suggested a crossdraw rig for the short barrel revolvers and a single holster for the Cavalry model. All they would need was our measurements and about 6 weeks.

The one thing not available from Kirkpatrick was leather pommel bags with holsters. A search of the Internet led me to Madri Custom Leatherworks. The owner was semi-retired and made the pommel bags to order among other things, one set at a time. I emailed him and asked if he could make 8 identical plain black leather dual pommel bags, both with holsters for 5½” original Vaquero revolvers. While I appreciated the fine tooling he did, I simply wanted plain black. He replied it would take 6 weeks and quoted

a cost. I emailed back and asked for an address to mail a check to, it would probably clear before he even got started.

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Tammy and I were married in a quiet ceremony by one of those people who do marriages in Nevada with Alan and Jennifer standing up with us. The 6 of us (kids included) went out to dinner at the Star Hotel. Over dinner I mentioned the fact that I had the older style firearms coming from Cimarron and would order leather from Kirkpatrick as soon as I had the measurements. I suggested that they go to Kirkpatrick and see their measurement guidelines. I would order the scabbards for the two rifles and shotgun for each horse and the pommel bags were already on order.

The next day after we got up and had breakfast, Tammy brought up Kirkpatrick and followed their directions and gave me her measurements for her jean size and where she intended to wear the belt, in this case 1" below her jeans belt. Men and women are built differently and in my case, the same measurements were closer than hers. I checked with Alan and they'd done the measurements and decided that they didn't want the Laredo rigs, selecting the Old West Marshall rig and crossdraw rigs. I looked and the Marshall was only available as a cross draw and the holsters were over the belt rather than through the belt.

The Laredoan Crossdraw rig had one holster through the belt and one over the belt. I called Kirkpatrick and spoke to customer service. I explained that what we really needed was one gun belt and four holsters, 4¾" and 5½" crossdraw and a 5½" and 7½" right side holsters. She said she'd discuss it with one of the Kirkpatrick's and get back to me. The price would be less than two complete rigs because only one belt was involved but she wasn't sure what to quote. She did suggest that if I got two sets of gun belts, one set could be 7½" right side and 5½" crossdraw and the second 5½" and 4⅝". I told her we'd do it that way and started giving her measurements for each of the 12 rigs.

The pommel bags arrived before the Kirkpatrick leather and everything came long after the firearms. In the meantime, Tammy and I bought two more doublewides and had them assembled and hooked up. She suggested that we buy the same washer dryer combos for the two new homes and upright freezers for all three. We added two satellite receivers and didn't hook them up until they were needed. The submarine batteries were hooked up, the second wind turbine spinning and the PV panels in place. We were generating way more power than we could use. So, we planned to add another 2 sets of batteries, more inverters/charge controllers, 2 turbines and add PV panels to the doublewides to increase the electricity we were selling.

The batteries, if bought in quantity directly from Exide, were cheaper than that guy on the east coast was selling them for.

I'm not really that old at 45, wait make that 47 because it's 2009 and after my birthday. Maybe that explains why that woman might be the death of me. I was looking rode hard

and put up wet and she was smiling. Worse, both she and Alan were out shooting me when we went to the range.

We got a discount on the purchase of gun safes and equipped each of the 3 doublewides with a gun safe and started to dole out the contents of the gun safe in our shelter, coming up way short. We also added a gun safe to the shelter under the barn dome and had the space divided into storage, sleeping accommodations, generator room, 2 ¾ baths and 2 ½ baths. The kitchen was larger than the kitchen in our dome and we estimated we could accommodate at least 36 people. I also ordered 4 extra 5½" Vaqueros.

Alan had found and hired two fulltime hands, filling the 2 doublewides. It would be a while before we had beef to butcher and Tammy and I bought 3 market-weight Black Angus steers and a Red Angus milk cow. The locker plant converted the lot into a couple of tons of good eating beef and we filled most of the freezers.

"We need to fill those gun safes Rob. Maybe I can hock my diamond."

"Nonsense Tammy, there's a better way."

"Do tell!"

"Ok, but it doesn't leave the dome. Back in 2006 I won the Mega Lotto for $200 million and eventually concluded that the structured payout was my best choice. We have $4,615,384.62 added to our checking account each year. To date we've received $18,461,538.48, net of federal withholding, and have $101,538,461.54, net, coming. With the coming check in November 2010, I propose we add additional inventory to our firearms business."

"What firearms business?"

"The property and everything else is owned by a Nevada Corporation I set up back in 2006. It is licensed as a class 3 firearms dealer. That's how the company has acquired all the select fire firearms and suppressors. To date, I've stopped short of buying a few things I'd like to have to avoid legal trouble. The only way to acquire those things would be to buy stolen military property and I've not wanted to put myself and others above the law."

"Steven Segal, wasn't it?"

"Oh the movie, yeah that was his first. Saw it at the base theater."

"Let me guess what you want. I'd say grenades and rockets for beginners; maybe some of that explosive ammo for the Tac-50. You probably want another Tac-338 and Tac-50 while we're at it and for sure more G-36s, M1As, 590A1s, PT1911s and Browning Hi-Powers. Anything else?"

“I’d want the suppressors for the firearms and PPKs.”

“Of course Rob, that goes without saying. So the 2010 check will be dedicated to finishing the preparations?”

“If you wouldn’t mind, I’d like to do that.”

“Maybe I can help.”

“How can you help?”

“I’m the widow of a Marine who was popular with most of his buddies. Some of those buddies are in logistics. How about 100 cans of Mk 211 MP, a few cases of M-67s and several crates of M-72A7s? The grenades come in a case 3 tubes wide by 5 tubes long and 2 layers deep. The LAW come 5 to the carton and 3 cartons to the case. Now, if I get really lucky, I might even be able to get an M3 MAAWS and an assortment of ammo.

“What’s that?”

“It’s the Carl Gudstav Recoilless Rifle used by the SEALs and other Special Forces.”

“I’ll contact Springfield Armory and get an order for the M1A Loadeds started. I’d speculate it will take them as long as 90 days to fill the order. I’ll wait until we receive the rifles and slings to order the A.R.M.S. mounts, Leupold scopes and ACOGs. We’ll need 5,000 rounds per rifle, minimum, so maybe I’d better order 6,000 rounds of 168gr A-MAX per and more of the 750gr A-MAX Match for the Tac-50, Lapua brand 300gr BTHP Match for the Tac-338 and Hornady 178gr BTHP Superperformance Match.”

“You do that and I’ll call a wife I know in Barstow. She can be very persuasive when she puts her mind to it. Her husband is a Gunnery Sergeant who had to reenlist to get the promotion. Neither of them was happy with the extra enlistment and I think they could use some extra money for retirement.”

“We don’t have a tremendous amount of cash available, but if they’d settle for gold or silver we have a large amount of that. I would expect to get current spot price for any we let go. I have about $800 an ounce in that purchase last year. The gold I bought in 2006 was based on a spot price of $630 but I bought coins so they cost more. I’d prefer letting the most recent purchase of gold go if we use precious metals. Right now the spot price is hovering around $1,000.”

“I’m sure he’d prefer gold to Federal Reserve Notes. Those pieces of paper are worth less and less every day. I have some silver, you know.”

“No I didn’t know you had silver, what do you have?”

“I have junk silver in all 3 denominations, but not a lot. I only have $100 face value, give or take, in each of the 3 denominations. You have no idea how many rolls of coins I had to go through to collect it.”

“Does that mean that your only investment is face value?”

“Of course Rob, how would I ever have been able to afford it otherwise?”

“How did you do it?”

“I started after Paul and I got married. He was a Corporal and we didn’t have a lot of money. I’d take the household allowance to the bank and buy coins. Then I’d sort through them and hold back the 90% silver coins. I’d take the other coins back to the bank and exchange them for new rolls. Generally I could do that twice and sometimes three times before I’d turn them in for cash and do our grocery shopping. It didn’t amount to much, a few dollars every payday, but eventually added up.”

“How long did you keep it up?”

“From the time we married until he died with time out when I had the partial. I was laid up for a while there and wasn’t up to it.”

“If you know what you need to make each bag exactly $100, we can buy a few coins.”

“Actually the total is $302 face value and it would be more a matter of exchanging coins. I have 6 extra half dollars and need 40 dimes.”

“I can get a roll of dimes for about $60 so I’ll just do that.”

“What’s silver worth?”

“Silver is worth around $16 an ounce. There is only a small premium on junk silver and I’d like to do this. To compute the cost, you divide the face value of a roll divided by 1,000 and multiply by 715.”

“So do it! Tell me something, what are we preparing for? I mean there are the obvious choices based on having two domes and a concrete garage like Global Thermonuclear War (GTW); but what exactly are we preparing for? I’ve read some of Fleataxi, especially the *North to Alaska* series and he had a series of CMEs there towards the end. I think Jerry over in Reno has had about one of everything and 90 percent of the stuff TOM writes ends up with a GTW because the Cuban Missile Crisis scared him so bad. You were Air Force like TOM and you seem to be leaning his direction.”

“GTW as you call it is always a consideration and we’re protected against every possibility associated with a GTW except a weapon landing on top of us. Have you ever looked at the Yellowstone ash maps the USGS put out? On page 5 it shows the 3 Yel-

lowstone eruptions and the Long Valley eruption. The only one that didn't bury this area in some level of ash was Mesa Falls. That was the second eruption about 1.3 million years ago. That reminds me, did we ever make a Bug out Bag for you?"

"No we didn't."

"I'll get a Kifaru MMR in MultiCam."

"What's MultiCam?"

"It's the color of the latest thing in camouflage; I mean it pretty much just came out. Oh, we didn't get any Propper uniforms in MultiCam; we'll take care of that too. I bought a MMR in MultiCam last year. Maybe I should get you something slightly smaller, like a Navigator with the gunbearer and holster options."

"Jerry from Reno writes about those in some of his stories."

"They're good packs. It's a 6+ week wait and MultiCam adds 10% to the price but I think they're worth it. I have a collection of pouches in MultiCam except for the pistol magazine pouches which are any color you want so long as you want black."

"Who does that remind me of?"

"It reminds you of Henry Ford but only the model T. By 1918, half of all the cars in the US were Model T's. However it was a monolithic bloc; Ford wrote in his autobiography that he told his management team in 1909 that in the future *any customer can have a car painted any color that he wants so long as it is black*. The truth of the matter was that initially the Model T was anything but black."

"Why?"

"The black paint lasted longer."

"Ok then, what does MultiCam look like?"

"I can't really describe it because it blends into whatever environment you're in. You just have to check it out on Wiki or the MultiCam website. The latter would probably be better because it has more pictures."

"What was the brand of pack, again?"

"Kifaru and if you go to their website you should look under tactical packs."

"What about canteens and ALICE gear?"

“We already have stainless canteens, cups and stoves plus a large number of 2 quart and 4 quart Oasis canteens. Plus there are Katadyn purifiers with spare filters and Micropur tablets. I got a Sawyer Point ZeroTWO water filter but it takes a lot of space. I only bought one of those and since the MMR is larger than the Navigator, I’ll carry it if we take it.”

“I take it that you’d rather not bug out?”

“You’re right on the money. Bugging out should be considered in our preps but only as the option of last resort. We have everything we need right here including two vehicles that will run after an EMP.”

“Why did you put in all of those mains? Were you planning on starting a trailer park?”

“I got the idea from reading PAW fiction. TOM is big on expanding his people base after his event occurs and he finds himself in a PAW, citing safety in numbers. It didn’t cost all that much extra and I put in a large septic system with an oversized leech field. And then, I had the mains put in near the front where the little street, as it were, is in front of my doublewide. The dome has room for many more horses and larger herds of cattle and hogs. I don’t like rabbit and tilapias prefer to eat vegetation over worms.”

“I’ve heard that before. They’re also tropical and do best if kept at between 82° and 86°. But why did you choose Rhode Island Reds and not Leghorns?”

“I’m not sure why I chose Rhode Island Reds. I like the brown eggs and if they’re fed a good diet can produce plenty of eggs. We can always get roosters, if we must, for breeding. If you object to my choices we’d better make the changes soon.”

“It’s not that I object Rob, it’s just that I was wondering why. At least we’re building our own militia since Alan is giving veterans preference in his hiring.”

“Some militia; we only have a total of 4 with military experience. And some of them only served one enlistment.”

“That’s true but you don’t have to start from scratch training them.”

“I can’t deny that. However, we need more horses, tack and accoutrements. I fully intend that we have 1 M1A Loaded rifle, 1 G-36 carbine, 1 590A1 shotgun, 1 PT1911 pistol, 1 Browning Hi-Power and 1 Walther PPK for each person. I also plan on having the same set of firearms for each horse.”

“I have no objections to the geldings because they easy riding. However, we should think about getting a stallion and some mares. We can keep the fillies for breeding and geld the colts.”

“Won’t that cause in-breeding? I’d think we’d want two unrelated stallions.”

“We would Rob, so long as the second stallion is at least 4 years younger than the first stallion and proven. Did you ever consider hiring a fulltime farrier who could double as a wrangler? Next, do you realize the potential of those old fashioned firearms in a PAW? We can get primers, smokeless powder and bullets to reload the military calibers and shotguns plus we can get Pyrodex, primers and used lead, like wheel weights, and cast our own bullets for the black powder arms.”

“No, I never thought of that. Do you suppose that’s why TOM has a thing for the *Cowboy Guns*?”

“That’s what he says in his stories. However, it may just be a case of arrested development. Single Action Shooting has experienced a revival of significant proportions. That’s why manufacturers’ load the lighter Cowboy loads. Did you buy regular loads or Cowboy loads?”

“I bought some Cowboy loads for practice and to keep as surplus brass. I also bought full power loads for carry. I got 2 cases of Cowboy loads and 2,000 rounds of full power loads per firearm set. I also picked up some more 12 gauge 00 buckshot and .45-70-405 Government with the flat nose lead bullets.”

“If you’re really serious about having at least one Morgan per person along with the full set of Single Action Arms, we need 8 more sets. Jim Crane and his wife and two girls need a full set as do Fred Thompson and his wife and son. You might as well get 8 additional sets with leather. Now I don’t know what you had in mind Rob… but if you’re planning of bugging out on horses, we should get 16 mules to pack our must take goods. You might as well consider getting packs for everyone.

“Now I have another question. How do you intend to haul a complete set of firearms?”

“The ’78, 1894 and 1895 will go in the rifle and shotgun scabbards. The 590A1 and G-36 will be strapped to the packs and the M1As in the rifle carriers. The .45acps in an IWB holster and I guess the remainder will have to go on the pack animals. We can go with ALICE gear.”

“That’s all right with me… as long as the mules haul the packs.”

“No dear, the mules will have the pack saddles with panniers. We might be able to put the packs on the mules’ backs between the panniers. I’ll talk to Alan.”

“You want to what?”

“I want to get more Morgan geldings so we have one gelding for everyone on the ranch. Tammy said we should think about getting a stallion and some mares and we could keep the fillies for breeding and geld the colts.”

“That’s a long term proposition.”

“I know, Alan, and the sooner you get started, the sooner we’ll have them. That’s why I made you foreman. Oh, while you’re at it, I want one mule trained as a pack mule for every gelding. We’ll do it the Army way with pack saddles and panniers. I think maybe everyone will be able to carry their backpack between the panniers.”

“What backpacks?”

“I think I’ll go ahead and buy everyone a Karifu MMR or Navigator in MultiCam. What do you think, Mountain House or MREs?”

“Mountain House, the MREs aren’t any better than when you were in the Air Force.”

“I didn’t really have to eat many MREs. I take your word on it and I’ll get Mountain House. Some of those provisions in the shelter under the barn dome include Mountain House Products. In this case, I’ll get either individual or double servings. You check with Jim and Fred and they can check with their bosses and find out what they like.”

“Anything else?”

“Have everyone go to Kirkpatrick pick out rigs and determine their sizes. I’ll order Cold Steel Military Classics in SK-5 for everyone.”

“It might be a good idea to get some Buck Folding Hunters and some 24” Latin Machetes.”

“Ok, I’ll get them and military duct tape.”

“Are you buying any additional sniper rifles?”

“One Tac-50 and one Tac-338.”

“Ok, I’ll get some extra mules to haul ammo and the heavy ordnance.”

“What heavy ordnance?”

“I figure that since you’re going full out on military caliber weapons you probably have M67s, M72s and other grenades on your list.”

“Which grenades should I get?”

“Well, Mk3A2 concussion, AN-M14 TH3 incendiary, M-15 Willy Pete, M-18 smoke and M84 flash bangs.”

“I can only ask.”

“If you haven’t called her yet, try to get M67s, Mk3A2 concussion, AN-M14 TH3 incendiary, M-15 Willy Pete, M-18 smoke and M84 flash bangs.”

“You’re in luck. I called, left her a message and told I had some great news and needed a favor.”

“As soon as Alan talks to Jim and Fred and they check with their bosses, I’ll have to order Mountain House entrees and such for the packs.”

“Packs, as in plural?”

“Yes, as in plural. My thinking is we get navigators for the women and younger people and MMRs for the men. But I don’t really know what to do, I’m almost flying blind.”

“Why don’t you get the firearms and ammo ordered and I’ll talk to the ladies tomorrow and get all the details. We’re going to need a large tent or several smaller tents, sleeping pads and bags, camp stoves, more canteens and all that involves. How are we on the any color you want as long as it’s black magazine pouches?”

“I bought case of those.”

“The belts, holsters, canteen covers, canteens, cups and stoves are part of the ALICE gear. How many sets do we have?”

“Two, we have one for each of us.”

“Ok, you can get more since you got what we have and know where to shop.”

“Gee, thanks; remind me to remember you in my will.”

“Make sure you get everyone suspenders, Cold Steel knives, Buck Folding Hunters and appropriate magazine pouches.”

“Is this where I say yes dear and take my leave?”

“If you want, I can generate a list of Honey dos.”

“Do that if you want, but pawn the work off to the staff. Do you realize that everyone who lives on the ranch works on the ranch in one capacity or another?”

“You did that intentionally so you have everyone close at hand in case something happens. Every vehicle has been equipped with a Business Band radio, a CB and High Frequency Ham Band radio whether they’re licensed or not. While I’m at it, I’ll check

with the bosses and see how the training is coming so everyone has at least a technician's license. What's the status on power?"

"I wouldn't know where to begin. We have four banks of 24 Exide 2.2vdc, 7,000 amp submarine batteries. They produce the 48vdc used by the inverters. The batteries are kept fully charged by the PV panels and wind turbines. In the event the sun didn't shine and the wind didn't blow, the generators would kick in and charge the batteries and provide power until the batteries were recharged. I don't know if that's the best use of the technology, but it's what is set up.

"We have some spares, one bank of batteries and the associated equipment including a wind turbine, PV panels, and inverters/charge controllers. All this was accomplished over time rather than in one fell swoop. For example, while the McMillan Tac-50 came out in 2001, it was available before then. The McMillan Tac-338 was officially released in 2009 as part of a new collection of Tactical Rifles. That's not to say they weren't available before then, the same as the Tac-50 which was actually available in the 1990s.

"The word is that Hornady is working on a new 285gr .338 Lapua cartridge that will be released in 2010 or 11. I'll probably switch from their 250gr when they're available. The same applies to the .45-70 Government, when they have it, we'll buy from them."

"I thought we already had some Hornady .45-70 Government."

"We do, they're bringing out a different bullet, we have Flex Tip and I heard they're developing a Mono-Flex, whatever that is."

"I heard someone say that the .338 Lapua ammo that the British Army uses is hotter than the Lapua factory rounds. Can we get any of that?"

"I sincerely doubt it. I must say that the 300gr .338 Lapua from the factory is hotter than the Hornady."

"Then stick with the hotter load since I'm sure it has more range. Shoot up the Hornady and we'll keep it for reloading."

"And therein lays the conundrum."

"What's that?"

"We don't have any reloading equipment and I don't know how to reload. I'm sure we can get wheel weights and cast bullets for the old fashioned firearms; but, I'm not sure I know how to reload them and watching Brian Keith reloading bullets in *Nevada Smith* doesn't qualify. I don't know if you ever saw the movie, it came out in 1966 and starred Steve McQueen as the title character and Brian Keith as Jonas Cord. It was based on

the characters in the novel *The Carpet Baggers*. I think the novel was written by Harold Robbins but I'd have to check that on Wiki."

"I thought *The Carpet Baggers* had Alan Ladd as Nevada Smith."

"You could be right, I didn't see that movie."

"Could I ask you a favor?"

"Sure Tammy, what can I do for you?"

"We agreed that this check would be used to finish our preps. Can we invest most of the next check in gold and silver? I realize that it's really gone up, but it could go higher."

"It might, but I probably won't go more than $1,250 an ounce. We don't have that much more to buy to finish our preps. When we're done, we can set enough aside to get us through to the next check and use the remainder for gold and silver. Then, we'll look at the price when we get the November 2010 check."

"When I poll the bosses, I'll get the sizes for the uniforms, gear choices, etc. Which sleep system do we want?"

"Slumber Jack sleeping bags and Therm-a-Rest self-inflating mattress pads. I haven't decided between a Kifaru Tipi and several smaller tents. The Tipi would hold all of us and has an optional fold-up wood burning stove."

"I heard about those. They're mentioned in one or more of Jerry's stories. Someone should tell him that some of his information is dated, especially concerning Brunton products."

"You dare to criticize our favorite authors?"

"You bet your booty. When they're wrong, they're wrong. TOM is just as bad as Jerry. Apparently he got his information about the Ma Deuce from his son in the National Guard. The kid told him that the barrels for their Ma Deuce were pre-headspaced. He forgot to tell his dad that they didn't come that way. What they did when they got barrels was to turn them all the way in and back them out 1 click at a time until headspacing was correct. Then they wrote the number of clicks out on a tag wired to the barrel resulting in a pre-headspace barrel. Anyway, long story short, the Army is going to the M2E2 Ma Deuce and it just happens to have a pre-headspaced quick change barrel and even a safety."

"I sometimes wonder how they've managed to accumulate so much information on prepping."

“Actually, in both cases, it started because of the Cuban Missile Crisis. TOM was at Edwards and Jerry was at home in Missouri helping his dad clean out a fruit cellar. He based a story on it, if I’m not mistaken, *Bugging Home*. Tom and Jerry are so much alike and yet, so different. Tom loves the M14 rifle and M1911 pattern pistols, just like you. Jerry likes the HK-91/PTR-91 and both are main battle rifles. Tom hates the M-16 but not the cartridge.

“He’s had 2 Mini-14s back when they cost less than $250, but I think he drank them up. Jerry likes the Steyr AUG carbine and it’s a popular choice in many of his stories. The Glock 21 and the Para Ordnance P14 are his favorite handguns. Like I said, they’re so much alike and yet, so different.”

“Let me get on the computer and place some orders while you check with the bosses. I’ll have to call on the G-36s and see if he can get more. Heck, if he can’t we may end up with Steyr AUGs ourselves. When you get back, we’ll call Propper and some of the other companies, especially Kifaru since it takes them a while to build the packs. Ask the wives about a large single tent or a separate tent for each family. That will affect what we get for heating.”

Two months later everything we’d ordered had arrived and been passed out. I treated Tammy and me with additional Super Match rifles. I know what they cost for crying out loud, I wrote the check. Both were identical to the first two, Harris Bipod, Nightforce NXS 5-15×56mm scope, ACOG, FA762K, leather sling and cheek piece, and 20 CMI mags each.

I’ll be damned if the price gold and silver took off like a rocket before we got the check. Mid November, the price was right around $1,350 and we bought the gold Eagles. Silver was running about $26 an ounce for the 500 count boxes of silver Eagles. Don’t ask… oh well, we spent half the money in one place, Kitco. Some of the check paid for the ammo we needed for the guns we bought and the Morgans and Mules. For a change we had money left over.

Our next adventure was visit from the BAFTE. We had a lot of silencers and select fire weapons and they wanted to know why they had been transferred to the Corporation and the trail stopped there. I explained that they were inventory. If they wanted to see the paperwork, I’d get it from my safe. If they wanted to see the weapons, they should have given me notice. They were here on the property stored in various gun safes I’d purchased. Lacking sufficient storage space, I’d put the gun safes in my employees residences and they have to follow me around while I opened the various safes.

I don’t believe they believed me. We spent all morning checking out the gun safes. The select fire weapons and suppressors in my possession were in my gun safe in our bedroom. I do believe that it’s the first time I ever saw an MP5 up close. It was a scene right out of *Unintended Consequences*. I believe that if they knew what was stored on the 2nd floor of the garage they’d have dropped dead from heart attacks.

You see, the Gunny down at Barstow was, well po'd barely covers it. I thought I'd heard about every kind of cussing there was until he personally delivered the Mk 211, grenades and rockets. He couldn't get the recoilless rifle because they weren't expendable ammunition like the Mk 211, M72A7s and assorted grenades were. Twenty-four ounces of gold (~$33,600) and we had to unload and move the stuff. The thing was he delivered it in a LVS that looked a lot like a HEMTT.

"You know, I think I approached the load limit with this load. She'll haul 45,000 pounds so I had to pull on that container to haul the goods. Y'all know how to use the stuff, right?"

"Some of my hands are Marines."

"You get 'em A4s?"

"Nope, we got them G-36s and M1As plus Taurus PT1911s for handguns and Mossberg 590A1 shotguns."

"Are they the standard model?"

"They're M1A Loaded models except for our Designated Marksman who got a M1A Super Match. We added a leather cheek piece, Nightforce scope with an ACOG for back-up, Harris bipod and a Surefire suppressor to make him invisible."

"Hot damn, you need any more ranch hands?"

"Don't know as we do Gunny. However if the climate suits you, I can let you have a trailer lot, no charge. You get free utilities except for the satellite receiver for the Internet and TV. I'm sure you want to say Hi to Tammy."

"Damned shame what happened to Paul. I figure he had his stuff together and didn't realize how bad that last tour affected him. At least Patton wasn't around to slap his face. There she is and as good looking as ever."

"Hey Tammy."

"George. Where's Marilyn? I thought maybe you'd drag her along."

"Wanted to but she couldn't get loose from a commitment.

"That's a big pile of ammo."

"I included some you didn't ask Marilyn to talk me into getting. I've got a few cases of M118LR and some of that Navy Mk 262 that the SEALs use. Finally, I included several cases of 40mm grenades."

“Damn, I forgot those.”

“But you have launchers?”

“Yes, we have AG-36 launchers on the G-36 carbines.”

“You should really build a bunker for your explosive ordnance and ammo. It would be a shame if that garage caught fire.”

“We don’t keep all of our eggs in one basket you know.”

“Still…”

“I’ll look into it Gunny.”

“Good. Considering the assortment I brought you in the 40mm grenades alone, I can’t stress building a bunker strongly enough. You have HE, HEDP, Thermobaric, Airburst, Star parachute, Star cluster in 2 colors, CS, Smoke Canopy in 3 colors, Ground marker in 4 colors, Infra-red, Canister and Practice.”

“Did you miss anything?”

“I didn’t bring any Crowd control.”

“If one considers our needing to use 40mm grenades, I doubt we’d use Crowd control rounds.”

“Those were my feelings exactly.”

“I don’t suppose you could get your hands on some AN/PVS-27 MUNS could you?”

“Let’s say that I could; what would it be worth to you?”

“If you can get enough, Tammy and I will put in a doublewide for you.”

“I’ll bring Marilyn along when I bring them. We get any say in what home you choose?”

“We’ve been putting in mid-range 3 bedroom homes with 1 bath and 1 ¾ bath. We’ve taken the garbage disposals out and added a low end washer and dryer plus an upright freezer. The homes have the desert package for better insulation plus self-adjusting heat tapes. We can provide the satellite dish feed for Internet and TV but you have to get your own receiver and cover the subscription.”

“You must want them very much.”

“As a matter of fact, Optics Planet can’t get them anymore. I’ll include the solar panels and another battery bank in the basement of the garage.”

“You don’t play poker, do you?”

“I’m afraid not, why?”

“Rob, you’ve got to know when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em. I’ll get more than you could possibly want if you upgrade the washer and dryer and get the largest upright Sears carries. And, since you have 18 months to get it done, I’ll deliver real soon on your promise that we get some say in the model. I’m thinking a two bedroom model with two full baths.”

“I agree, provided I get as many as I can use.”

“How many do you need?”

“Let’s go around count the firearms before you commit.”

“That’s fair enough.”

“My God man, you have a thing for sniper rifles, don’t you?”

“Would you rather have them and not need them or need them and not have them?”

“I notice you’re facing east. If he gets reelected, we’re in deep kimchee. Ok, I think maybe I can do it if I call in every marker I hold.”

“If you can get enough, I’ll give you 60% of MSRP against the home and furnishings.”

“You know about GSA pricing, don’t you?”

“Yes I do and GSA pricing is slightly below wholesale. I’m offering less than GSA pricing but not by much.”

“Deal.”

George went to visit with Tammy after we had an agreement and I told Alan that we just cover the pile with a tarp and not move it until we could get a bunker built. Alan said he’d arrange for the bunker and I could write the check. He suggested that we’d have it done before we got snow. I went back to the dome and sat down with George and Tammy. I really wasn’t paying much attention when Tammy rang my chimes and told me to answer George.

“I’m sorry about that. I was a million miles away.”

“Halfway to Mars, huh? What I was asking was why you called the G-36 a carbine. The more correct term is Assault Rifle. It’s sort of a fine line between a Main Battle Rifle like the Garand or M-14 and an M-16 which is an Assault Rifle. The latter has several distinct features, but the primary one is the light weight, magazine and select fire. The M-16 originally had a longer barrel than the G-36 by a little more than an inch. They didn’t start calling them carbines when they shortened the barrel to 16”.”

“I was going by barrel length rather that the features. Maybe I was wrong.”

“Could be. Do you have enough rifles to go around?”

“Probably, why?”

“I have access to some HK-416s, 417s and armory rebuilt M-21s.”

“Fine, supply your own weapons. Thanks to you, we’re not short on ammo.”

“I think we’ll go with Mk 23s and USP 45CT Compact Tactical.”

“Match grade, no less.”

“Those USSOCOM people are damned hard to please. I’ve got to hit the road. We were supposed to be back tonight but were delayed on the way up. Tammy, I’ll tell Marilyn you said Hey and she be coming when we bring the MUNS.”

“Drive carefully George.”

“I’m not driving. That Lance Corporal is in charge of driving and I’m in charge of sleeping.”

The bunker was finished and the goods moved before we got snow. In fact, George and Marilyn showed up with the trunks and back seat filled to the gills not long after the bunker was finished. He was on leave and told folks back in Barstow he was looking at a possible retirement location. He approved of the bunker and after a bit we went manufactured housing shopping.

He had brought enough MUNS for every long arm that lacked one and some spares. Forty-eight at 60% of $10,900 was chunk of change, $314,000 in round numbers. They could have any home they wanted and he said we could take the price of some of the PV panels out of money. As long as they got $100 grand in gold at today’s spot price, we could settle up later. We looked up the spot price on Kitco and wrote it down. Now we were both locked in at a set amount of gold. We were both taking a risk due to the

fluctuations in the gold price. If it went up I'd lose and if it went down, George would lose. Such is life.

It appeared that we were both going to make out pretty well. Not a bad deal when one thinks about it. The best Retail price I'd seen $10,500 times 48 = $504,000. I've heard it said that it takes money to make money, or was that save money? Bill Gates is retired and earns so much per year from his Microsoft stock that he has to give it away. It mostly goes to the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation, a Private Foundation exempt from income tax under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3).

We didn't realize it at the time, and those in the know weren't talking, but we were entering troubling times. Enough ice had melted to reduce the salinity of the Gulf Stream. When NOAA reported it to the Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke, Locke briefed Obama and Obama clamped the lid down tight. It was so far above Top Secret that the term defining the actual classification is Top Secret. They set about building a stone wall so high and thick that they hoped it would never be broken.

The area around Elko is classed as high altitude desert. This means there are an average of 42 days per year with a high temperature of 90°F or higher, and an average 193 days with a low temperature of 32°F or lower. On average, there are 130 sunny days each year. Annual snowfall averages 38.5 inches, although the winter of 1996 set a record with 100.8 inches.

Doomsday Preppers – Chapter 1

Are you wondering why the Prologue was so long? Simple, Jerry starts his action immediately before, during or after his Prologue. TOM on the other hand spends most of the story describing the preparations. I wanted to do both and that resulted in the long Prologue.

The winter of 2010 was the most snow I'd seen since I'd moved to Elko, 48.4 inches. We didn't know that the Thermohaline Circulation of the Gulf Stream was beginning to collapse. It was the subject of much conversation, speculation and consternation. The price of gold was at a record high and I decided to sell some of the recently acquired gold now and buy George and Marilyn's home and all we promised, come spring.

That's not to say we had enough gold to last a lifetime. I don't know how much that is, do you? All I can tell you is that the precious metals safe was full before the last purchase and we removed the silver to make room for the gold. Yeah, huh? If this snow is a sign of things to come, I may wish I didn't sell any. I rushed into Elko and purchased the home outright and paid for it on the spot using the proceeds of my gold sale. Next, I bought the PV panels, batteries, cables, Inverters/charge controllers, appliances and other things it would take to fulfill my promise.

We put everything in the appropriate place except for the appliances which went into the back of the lube bay. Took in our empty oil drums and swapped them out. We also added a few more… damn it is cold outside. It was a bear keeping the snow off the PV panels even though it didn't matter. The wind was blowing so hard the automatic brakes on the wind turbines kicked in keeping them at their maximum rated safe speed. We still sold power, just not as much.

When we finally got the batteries hooked up and hooked in, and as they charged we almost started consuming power from the grid. Almost. Seven thousand amps times twenty four 2.2v batteries is a lot of juice. To quote a source I found on the web:

Five-Foot High Nuclear Submarine Batteries are very conservatively designed to outlast the lifetime of a submarine boat, (35 years). One of the great improvements is the use of calcium in the very thick oxide-lead positive plate. This allows low gassing during charging, which results in only adding water once every two years, and much lower charge loss, due to charge migration during stand-by. We estimate for home use you will get 35 years or better with good care. Each cell is 2.2 volts per cell X 7000 amps = 15,400 watt hours, a 12 volt system = 6 cells X 15,400 watt hours= 92,400 watt hours, this could run an average household for up to 45 days, (ganging more cells together can accommodate 24 volt, 48 volt, etc., systems). With a 48 volt system, (24 cells), 4 X 45 days = 180 days = 6 months. When current is drawn from batteries at 200 amps or less, instead of 7000 amps, as above, kilowatt hour ratings are increased 20 to 30%. This is due to the lower heating effect of the acid. (1 kilowatt hour = 1000 watts every hour or a toaster or a 1000 watt light bulb left on for one hour). Operating batteries at room temperature increases the efficiency still more. Using the electrolyte pumping system built

into each cell increases the efficiency still more. This prevents acid from settling out, by pumping acid from the bottom of the cell to the top. These batteries were made by Exide, one of the leaders of battery manufacturing.

Review the quote. Each cell is 15.4kwh. Therefore, we should have come up with 120 (5 × 24) × 15.4kwh or 1,848kwh stored power. Average residential monthly usage for 2010 was about 959kwhs. We have 5 residences and the barn dome consuming electricity. So maybe, our average total monthly usage is 5,754kwhs. We generate enough solar and wind energy to have enough to cover our usage and sell much more than we use. When the batteries are at full charge, we sell all we generate in excess of 5,754kwhs per month.

How much current are we drawing? An *average month* is 365.25 days ÷ 12 = 30.4375 days. The ranch uses ~189kwh per day or 7.877kwh per hour. We have enough stored power to last 9.77 days if the sun didn't shine, the wind didn't blow and the generators didn't kick in. It's actually closer to 10 days because we can switch our refrigerator to propane. We bought our refrigerator while the others came with the doublewides. Both of our refrigerators were the same size. We would switch to propane because generators would disconnect us from grid and kick in to provide our needed power. It took an Engineer to determine the ATSs we needed to make it work correctly first time and every time. I had to pay for manual cutoff switches to isolate the grid and then the battery bank. Do you know how much an Electrical Engineer charges for this type of consultation? It's more than that.

Mind you, I'm not crying too much because I won the Mega Lotto and still have 21 payments coming. Like *The Hermit*, those FRNs were converted into hard goods ASAP. Whether one wanted to believe what the authors of the PAW stories said would happen could happen was immaterial. Those stories were guidelines and entertainment. What I liked about them was the authors, intentionally or not, did much of your research for you.

Some of ideas seemed to be dreamed up by a crackpot. Crackpot? Maybe and maybe not. If we had a GTW like some of them write about, you might be limited to what you had and what you could make. The current standard composition for the black powders that are manufactured by pyro technicians was adopted as long ago as 1780. Proportions by weight are 75% potassium nitrate (known as saltpeter or saltpetre), 15% softwood charcoal, and 10% sulfur. For the most powerful black powder meal, a wood charcoal is used. The best wood for the purpose is Pacific willow, but others such as alder or buckthorn can be used.

One can get a lifetime supply of lead for bullets by acquiring used wheel weights from tire stores. They may charge you for them. The alternative would be E-Bay although they'll cost you more because of the shipping. UPS and FedEx charge by weight and distance and you know good and well that some guy selling you 50 pounds of used wheel weights for 50¢ a pound isn't paying the shipping. Believe me the local guy is cheaper in the long run.

Every year, millions of small weights are attached to tires by automotive technicians while balancing them (according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, worldwide these total about 70,000 tons of lead annually). Traditionally, these weights have been made of lead, but since lead is a toxic metal, political authorities and industrial groups are in the process of converting to materials that are less toxic than lead. Just make sure they're not marked Zn (Zinc). There are 7000 grains in 1 pound. That's 28 250 grain bullets or ~17¼ 405 grain bullets.

The guy that ran the tire store had the hots for Tammy, despite both being married. We ended up with a ton of weights before he stopped giving them to her for free. He was still willing to sell them to her for the same price he got from the recycler. An ad on the web said:

I am producing Willow Lump Charcoal by the closed retort method. I tried to make air float with a hammer mill but it all floated away in the breeze.

Willow Lump Charcoal 8# Box. $37.99
FREE SHIPPING*

*Free Shipping is for continental United States only. Alaska, Hawaii, P.R., and International please inquire before ordering.

Hey, it's only money and if we buy the charcoal it can be burned for heat or ground for gunpowder. Besides, I read *Cowboy* and know that willow charcoal makes the best gunpowder. At a different website I found Potassium Nitrate, Prilled, 10 lb. Box $41.90 and Sulfur for $3.75 per pound if I bought more than 10 pounds. I wanted to buy 100 pounds of Sulfur and 750 pounds of Potassium Nitrate. That meant that I needed 150 pounds of charcoal, 19 boxes. The second guy also sold ball mills and charcoal but didn't say if it was willow charcoal.

Before I placed the orders, Tammy and I discussed it and she suggested that we do 2 things. One, double the order for gunpowder supplies; and, two, get a large amount of Pyrodex, in both pistol and rifle. She'd deal with the guy at the tire store and, if necessary, offer him a few cents more per pound for all the lead wheel weights.

Backing up our backups in the firearm category was accomplished relatively quickly and inexpensively, in proportion. Jennifer brought up the next issue probably because of the 48.4 inches of snow, skis and or snowshoes. She suggested touring skis and Michigan pattern snowshoes. What we ended up with was MSR Evo Tour with tails in the snowshoe department along with MSR Surelock TR-03 poles.

In the ski department, we'd go with cross-country metal edge touring skis and use the MSR poles. We'd wear metal-edge touring boots to match the skis. What it boiled down to was a cross-country metal edge touring ski packages that ran about $600 each. So we had two sets of poles… backups. We included George and Marilyn in our purchases after Tammy called Marilyn and got their shoe sizes.

Wiki have photos of the US Marshal Service seal and badge. What good is a badge without the photo ID, you ask? If you know what a button camera is you know why Tammy and I drove Reno. Close counts in horseshoes, hand grenades, dancing and photo IDs, provided you don't remove the ID from the ID case.

Never do something yourself if there is a better alternative. The idea was for Tammy to look up a local Deputy US Marshal and ask for identification before she spilled the beans. It was a stupid idea… the odds were it just might work. The beans hadn't been preconceived, Tammy would ad lib.

"Did you get what we wanted?"

"Yes, I managed to take 3 photos by asking politely if I could get a better look due to poor eyesight."

"And what, pray tell, did you come up with?"

"I asked him if there was an FBI or Secret Service office in Reno. He told me to check the Yellow pages, shook his head and walked off. So now in addition to dumb blondes you can add women with auburn hair to the list."

The problem with a photo of an ID card is that the photo doesn't give one any perspective since the photographer can't hold up a ruler when the photo is taken. *Improvise. Adapt. Overcome.* Yeah, I saw the movie. I also saw where TOM used it as one of his three favorite sayings. Oh, the others? *Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. Bad things happen in threes.*

A quick search of the Internet revealed that the USMS badge was 60mm and one could buy the neck holder or a universal badge holder wallet. The company sold badges to badge collectors, so we ordered a few badges and neck holders and said to heck with the ID. Odds are the local I'd talked to about badges would have bought them for $69 each and charged me $100. Further searching revealed that the badge was universal and worn by all Deputy Marshals. One has to be careful and look before they leap.

The badges represented our Plan D (desperate). I think it's either felony or serious misdemeanor to falsely claim you are a US Marshal. I must have been having a bad hair day, try as I might, I couldn't locate the appropriate US Code section. A review of our plans revealed Plan A was to hunker down and wait for the authorities; Plan B was Plan A plus salvaging what we could from trucks on I-80; and Plan C was to Bug Out as ordinary survivors. Plan D was Plan C plus the Marshal Badges. Keep that in mind, I might forget.

TOM says *be careful what you wish for because God has sense of humor.* While I was on the net, I tried to find out. What I found was *Does God have a sense of humor? Oh yes! Be careful what you ask for. He might give it to you!*

Spring was a few days later than normal and the fields were muddy. We went shopping for short maturing seeds. We ended up with fastest growing seed we could find and Alan said we'd be lucky to get a crop; it was up to God and the National Weather Service. Of course the NWS, being part of NOAA already knew, but weren't talking. We were reduced to relying on the Farmer's Almanac. It started publication in 1818 and has been published every year since.

We didn't plant anything that would mature any longer than 90 days in the future and we didn't plant our usual assortment of crops. The garden, on the other hand, was the principal source of much of our food. Many of those crops went in before the field crops. We made a few changes along the way. We bought 4 feeder steers since our steers had a year to go and these were around 900 pounds. It's only money.

When a news commentator commented that there was something screwy with the weather, I jumped on that band wagon.

"Alan, I like you to double up on seed this year so we have a reserve for next year. Tammy and Jennifer will do the same for the garden and we'll be using open pollenated heirloom seeds. Are we going to get a crop this year?"

"I think so. It might not be a bad idea to get open pollenated heirloom seeds for the field crops too. Be prepared to pay about double what we usually pay for seed, not counting the double buying. I also think we should split the soybeans between soybeans and barley so we have everything we need to make COB. The elevator can add any supplements we want when they mix the COB. Depending on yields, we should mix up the cattle/hog feed around the same time. Don't worry about the chickens they'll eat most anything."

"You'd better get some roosters and we'll let some of the hens go broody, just in case."

"Is this past winter bugging you?"

"I'd be lying if I said no. I believe that the investment Tammy and I have should maintain the same return for the 20 odd years. By the way, that new home is for George and Marilyn, Tammy's friends."

"Is he the ammo guy?"

"Yep; He's a Marine Gunnery Sergeant who is none too happy about extending for 4 years to get the extra stripe."

"You were Air Force? Twenty years or longer?"

"Yes, I was in 20 years and retired as a Master Sergeant, E7."

“Surely you didn’t save up the amount of money you have available?”

“I didn’t; I prefer referring that source of income as a Trust Fund.”

“Inherit some money from your father or grandfather?”

“Not exactly. I’ll give you a clue but won’t spell it out. I got lucky and a small investment produced an inordinate return, paid in installments.”

“Would that be twenty-six installments?”

“Yes.”

“What did you do, win the Mega Lotto?”

“Why would you think that?”

“One, you receive your trust money every November; and two, someone won the November 2006 Mega Lotto and has never been identified. Think *Inch Worm; Hans Christian Andersen* starring Danny Kaye (1952).”

“That was before my time. What does it have to do with this discussion?”

“Two and two are four; four and four are eight…”

“Ok, I get it.”

“If you expect this cooling trend to continue, you might be wise to install a commercial greenhouse and a slightly smaller hobby greenhouse. I’m not sure about the commercial greenhouse. A company from Texas sells a large greenhouse 30’ wide and as long as you want.”

“I’ll check with the boss.”

I just said that; it didn’t truly represent the reality of our situation. There was no prenuptial agreement. It didn’t matter; the annual distribution was made to me. Of course it was a direct deposit into our joint checking account. I did check with Tammy though and asked her if we should have a greenhouse constructed.

“Who brought that up?”

“Alan. The company is in Fort Worth, Texas and their largest model is 30’ wide and as long as you want it to be.”

“If we went up each side and turned, moving towards the center, we could stop at the lane and have almost 660’ × 30’ – 30’ × 30’. How much is that?”

“Hang on, I’ll use a calculator. It’s 19,800 – 900 = 18,900ft².”

“If that were square, how big would it be?”

“About 137.4’ per side.”

“Do it.”

I actually made the calculation wrong and the greenhouse would be (3 × ((660 × 30) - 900))) + 1,800 = 58,500ft². We would have doors on both ends and on each side. At first, I thought they were ripping us off charging us as much as a house at over $100 per ft². Yes, it cost almost $2,000,000 and 18,900 × $100 = $1,890,000. It actually cost around $32.50 per ft².

That purchase could have eaten up almost half the November check. Refilling the fuel tanks wasn’t exactly inexpensive either. The only way to know the price of fuel is to look at the delivery ticket or the fuel pump at the service station. Reuters listed the price of oil at 134.72 per barrel. Another thing just popped into my head. Those AN/PVS-27s had been shown as discontinued on one website and I assumed they had been discontinued by Omni Tech Partners Group. Further searching revealed that OTPG’s parent had been bought up but the MUNS was still available. Assuming you could afford one… the nightscope cost more than the rifle!

Long story short, I contacted Texas Greenhouse down in Fort Worth and, yes they could build the greenhouse… in stages… and it would probably take them 2-3 years. Did I have the $2 million or so that it would cost? Not only did we have it all in FRN, if we could pay in stages it would be even better. If I sent a check, as soon as it cleared they would begin construction of the sections and ship every time they had a truck load. When they had shipped enough to justify having a full time installation crew on-site, they would start erection. Did I want to put in the footings or make it turnkey? Turnkey worked for me. The check was for $1 million.

As soon as the weather cleared, they had a crew there putting in footings. Naturally, I had to pay for the ready-mix. The crew was staying a motel and suggested that if we put in a 3 bedroom doublewide like some of those we already had, the installation charges would be much less. So Tammy and I discussed it and put in another doublewide like the one I had lived in. It was complete with washer, dryer and freezer and no garbage disposal. Since I had a collection of new garbage disposals, I swapped them with a plumbing contractor for In-Sink-Erator Evolution Septic Assist, Septic Garbage Disposal, ¾ HP for $150 each, installed. No, I paid him, he didn’t pay me. It made me very popular with the women folk.

Since we had over half of the check left, Tammy got her wish and we bought gold and silver. Gold was in the neighborhood of $1,400 spot price and the ratio was hovering around 50:1. Let me tell you, at these prices, $1 million doesn’t buy you a lot of gold or

silver. We stuck with Eagles. We got the Silver Eagles for $28 each and the gold Eagles for $1,580 for the one ounce and more per ounce for the smaller coins. The ½ ounce cost ~50.75% of the 1 ounce, the ¼ ounce ~26.87% of the 1 ounce and the one-tenth ounce 11% of the 1 ounce Eagle.

Since we still had a lot of cash in the checking account, we decided to build a warehouse and fill it with as much as we could until it was full while continuing to pay for the greenhouse and buying $1 million in gold and silver each year. After tossing it back and forth for a few days, the decision was to spend up to $1 million on the warehouse and after setting back operating expenses, begin filling it.

It's easy to search the Internet for warehouse builders. It's next to impossible to get a price off the Internet. When I explained my problem to Tammy, she said I should let her look because she was a bargain hunter. She searched until she found a builder with buildings on clearance. The largest available was 50' × 100' but they had more than one building, some smaller. Of course, buying a building on clearance meant that installation was extra so she asked the salesman a lot of questions when she called.

She told me that when it was all said and done, we'd save 20%. On the other hand, if we installed the slabs ourselves, we'd save close to 30%. I told her to call a contractor to put in the slabs. She said I misunderstood… we/us/the staff was the 'we' she was referring to, not a contractor. The company with the building would simply hire a local contractor to put in the slabs and pass the cost to us. When she told me the costs of doing it both ways, I told her to call them back, buy all the buildings and have them contract for the slabs, we could afford it.

These decisions were beginning to cut into our farming acreage. So be it, we'd just grow hybrids after we had a good stock of open pollinated heirloom seeds for the fields. The upside to hybrids was the higher yields and the downside was the resulting seeds wouldn't grow true. We bought Big Daddy's Yellow Dent Corn seeds at 1.75 per ounce. The same applied to the wheat's (durum and red winter), oats, barley, alfalfa and soybeans.

Since you can't grow lye, we bought it by the bag. It was also easier to buy methanol and store it in a new tank. Soybeans yield about 48 gallons of oil per acre and 100 acres meant we could get by with a 5,000 gallon tank. So, we put in a new 10,000 gallon tank for the soybean oil and a second 10,000 gallon tank for biodiesel. The ratio is 1 gallon of methanol per 5 gallons of oil. We put in a 40,000 gallon methanol tank and had a devil of a time filling it. The processor we bought was a FuelMeister II Dual without accessories. Tammy found it at myfuelpod dot com. She bought a pallet of NaOH from Duda's in 50 pound bags. If I understood her correctly, the lye cost $35 per bag when bought by the pallet of 40 bags. It was hazmat so the shipping was higher. I started to say we bought lye by the ton and when I think about it, we did.

I wasn't sure that proportions of methanol, lye and soybean oil were correct, so, I polled the staff. None had any experience producing biodiesel but Fred said he was willing to

give it a try. I gave him all the documentation we had and pointed out we had a ton of lye and 40,000 gallons of methanol. The equipment was the FuelMeister II Dual that was rated at 120 gallons per day or 3 40-gallon batches. If that didn't work out, we could acquire additional tanks and make 40-gallons per tank.

Life may be a picnic, but the problems with picnics are flies and ants that get into your food. We had money and would get more until something happened to shut down the Mega Lotto payment system. That was a fly in the ointment (picnic) and maybe TOM was right and we were days away from a GTW. On the other hand, we had ants (global cooling) that no one seemed to want to acknowledge. Two and two are four… but, bad things happen in threes. Whoa!

"Alan I want this year's crop production to be all open pollinated heirloom seeds. That goes for the field and the garden. I'll have a word with Tammy about the garden but the fields are your domain. Next year, I want you to plant hybrid seeds on half your usual acreage and grow open pollinated heirloom rapeseed (most of the rapeseed is open pollinated). I've been reading about vegetable oil yields and rapeseed yields 127 gallons per acre while soybeans only yield 48 gallons per acre.

"That's a significant difference."

"You can say that again."

"That's a significant difference."

"Enough already, you're starting to repeat yourself."

"I was just following orders."

"It's an expression."

"Oh, I know that, I was just having some fun."

"Have you been keeping current with the sniper rifles?"

"Every Saturday I fire one of the 3. I suppose you could say it's in rotation, 7.62, .338 and .50 BMG. I've got to tell you that the Tac-50 almost beats me to death."

"Maybe someday, McMillan will solve that problem."

"That would be nice."

"I was checking out the Military Channel and they rate the Barrett .416 as the top sniper cartridge. I only bring that up because McMillan is bringing out a rifle chambered in the .416 Barrett during early 2012. They also announced a Tac-50 A1 R2 with a recoil miti-

gation system but didn't give any details. I haven't ordered the Tac-338 or Tac-50 so maybe I should hold off. Maybe get a Tac-416 rather than a Tac-338."

"I'll willingly trade in my Tac-50 for the new Tac-50 A1 R2."

When one thinks about it, we were sniper rifle poor. We had on hand 1 Tac-50, 1 Tac-338 and 5 M1A Super Match rifles. If I added 2 more rifles to the mix, we'd have 9 sniper rifles for 10 adults. All chiefs and no Indians… McHale's Navy.

The yields on the heirloom seed was significantly lower than our typical hybrid yields. Still, we produced a multiyear supply and carefully stored it in the smaller of the two new warehouses. They were constructed on either side of the lane leading to the fields. As we got into fall, the Texas Greenhouse installation crew closed the ends of the greenhouses and installed the propane heaters and grow lights so we could use what we had.

The ladies of the ranch immediately set about having tables to hold the planter boxes installed and Tammy bought the planter boxes and a lot of potting mix. They intended on growing what the garden came up short on because of letting most of the plants go to seed.

Fall came early and hard. It was a repeat of the previous winter with one exception, the reaction of the media. One winter of extreme cold and unusual snowfalls was an occurrence while two years of extreme cold and unusual snowfalls was news. Not that I care much for the media because they all deserve the Pulitzer Prize for being just as nasty as Pulitzer and Hearst. The Pulitzer Prize is awarded for Excellence in Journalism, an oxymoron if I ever heard one.

They reported the facts on page 1 and spent 4-5 pages analyzing what it meant. The online new services like CNN, Fox and MSNBC were even worse on their websites. While their reporting of the snowfalls was accurate, their speculation about what it meant ran the gamut of cooling period to mini ice age to full blown ice age. Other than the NWS reporting the facts, the government was silent, refusing comment.

Not long after we received the November 2011 check, Tammy secured a Tac-416 and Tac-50 A1 R2 and additional ammo. Alan now had his own Tac-50 and we had a .416 Barrett caliber rifle. She bought 5,000 rounds of .416 from Impact Guns and another 5,000 of 750gr A-MAX from Hornady. The rifles were scoped with Nightforce 12-42×56 scopes and Jet titanium silencers. Looking back, I was happy we built the bunker larger than needed. Next, she proceeded to try and fill both warehouses.

I didn't pay a lot of attention to that. I can tell you she bought Mason jars, Tattler lids and replacement sealing rings. She bought Charmin tissue and Folgers Classic Roast coffee, a truckload of each. The smaller warehouse held things like clothing, both Propper and Levis. There was case after case of blue work shirts, boots, outerwear, gloves… you name it. Much of the foregoing was bought for both men and women and a small

selection of women's undergarments, and the same for men was added. Altogether Tammy went through about $2.5 million.

George (call me Gunny) and Marilyn were in residence and he sent his going away present from Barstow well ahead of time. I told you he was po'd. What he'd supplied before was the tip of the iceberg. With their retirement secure he decided to rape the Corps the way he felt they'd raped him. Periodically we'd receive a railcar of ammo, explosives and missiles. The M72 is a rocket, not a missile. Gunny sent rockets and missiles. He didn't like the President and was convinced a Revolutionary War was in the offing. He sent Javelin and Stinger missiles. The Stingers were the latest version and reprogrammable. He claimed that he could bypass the IFF feature. Time would tell.

Protective Actions before Nuclear Attack

You must do two things to prepare yourself and your equipment for a nuclear attack. First, you must shelter yourself and your equipment. Second, you must further protect your equipment against EMP damage. Remember, the next war may be nuclear, so you must take these precautions when operating on a future battlefield.

The best defense against a nuclear attack is to dig in. Unit defensive positions must be prepared whenever possible. These can vary from individual fighting positions to improved defensive positions. Certain common materials and types of construction provide good shielding against gamma rays and neutrons. They also provide protection against blast and heat.

A well-built fighting position gives good protection against both initial and residual radiation. A deep fighting position gives more protection than a shallow one. A fighting position with overhead cover is even better. This will reduce the amount of thermal and initial radiation that reaches you and will also prevent the entrance of fallout. If you cover your fighting position, make sure that the cover is strong enough to withstand the blast wave.

Tunnels, caves, and storm drains also provide good shelter unless there is a nearby subsurface collapse. Culverts and ditches can be used in an emergency, but they offer only partial protection. Buildings are usually not strong enough to provide effective shelter. However, if you can find the basement of a reinforced concrete or steel-framed building, it will provide good protection against all effects. If you take shelter in a building, avoid the areas around windows and other openings.

Individual clothing, equipment, and other items must be kept in fighting positions, or in a separate covered hole. None of this equipment can be left unsecured because the blast wave will convert it into deadly missiles. Unit supplies, especially explosives and flammables, must be dispersed within the unit area and protected or shielded. Debris must be kept to a minimum and not be allowed to collect where it could catch fire. Objects

such as radios, generators, tools, and fuel cans must always be secured to reduce the danger of casualties from flying objects.

Protective measures taken for EMP before a nuclear attack are critical to unit survival. Cables, wires, antenna systems, and all other metal structures are good electrical conductors, and all absorb EMP energy. The term used is "coupling." Material that couples with electromagnetic energy can absorb enough EMP energy to induce voltage and currents. The key to protection is to develop techniques of equipment installation and operation that reduce EMP coupling.

EMP can enter electrical systems through intentional antennas, unintentional antennas, and direct penetration. Intentional antennas are standard radio and radar antennas. Unintentional antennas can be any device (masts, wiring loops, cables) that can act as an antenna even though it is not meant to be one. In direct penetration, internal electronic components act as loop antennas, allowing strong electromagnetic fields to be created inside equipment.

Protective Actions during the Attack

Enemy nuclear attacks can come without warning. Your first indication of an attack will be a very bright flash of light. Heat and initial nuclear radiation arrive with the light and the blast will follow in a few seconds. You will have very little time – protective actions must be automatic and instinctive. Unit activities will be suspended for a short time while all personnel take cover. If you are out in the open when a nuclear burst occurs –

Immediately drop flat on the ground (face down) or to the bottom of a fighting position. Face away from the fireball. Any depression in the ground will provide you some protection if you can get to it immediately.

Close your eyes. Protect exposed skin by putting your hands and arms under your body. Keep your helmet on, it will protect you from flying debris.

Remain down until the blast wave has passed and debris has stopped falling. Stay protected until the negative phase of the blast wave has also passed. As the blast wave passes a position; there is a resulting decrease in air pressure to a point below normal atmospheric pressure. This, in effect, creates a vacuum. Air will rush in to fill the vacuum, causing high winds from the direction opposite that of the direction of travel of the blast wave.

Stay calm, check for injury and equipment damage, and prepare to continue your mission.

Count the number of seconds between the flash of light and bang, if possible, for inclusion in an NBC 1 report.

Protective Actions after the Attack

After a nuclear attack, secure and organize your equipment, repair and reinforce your position, and help any casualties. To protect yourself against fallout, begin to prepare or improve your position. Designated persons will begin radiological monitoring. When warned of fallout, take cover and remain protected until the fallout has stopped or until you receive further orders.

If nuclear weapons have been used and you have no radiac equipment, you face a very real danger of exposing yourself to radiation without knowing it. If you have seen a nuclear burst, stay away from that area. If you see what looks like sand, dust, or ashes falling from the sky, assume that it is fallout. Find a good shelter or dig in quickly and cover your position and equipment. If dust particles make breathing difficult, a handkerchief or cloth can be worn over your nose and mouth. The Ml 7 series protective mask cannot be used as a dust respirator.

When the dust stops falling, scrape or brush the dust away from the edges of your shelter. Stay in your position for at least 24 hours, and then move to a friendly position as fast as possible. If you are separated from your FU, try to rejoin your unit or another friendly unit as soon as possible. Your unit may be ordered to move to a less hazardous area if the radiation dose reaches a dangerous level after fallout is complete. However, movement to another area is never based solely on a fallout prediction, because the exact location of fallout cannot be reliably forecast. If you come upon an area where many trees have been blown down, change your course and stay away from that area. The same is true if you find a large crater or an area of ground which looks glassy. Keep in mind that you cannot tell when you are in a radiologically contaminated area unless you have radiac equipment.

It may be necessary for your unit to enter and/or remain in an area receiving fallout. If so, quickly dig in, sweep the fallout away from your fighting position, and cover up with your poncho until fallout is complete. The period of time a unit may stay in a contaminated area depends on the total dose of radiation the troops can receive and still remain effective, the intensity of the radiation, and the protection available.

Take remedial actions for nuclear blackout. These actions are extremely limited. However, remember that nuclear blackout only affects certain areas and lasts for only a limited time. For radio blackout –

Use wire. This may be a simple solution since nuclear blackout does not affect wire systems. However, remember that wire systems are extremely susceptible to EMP.

Use routing through a manual relay or retransmission station to bypass the affected region.

Use assigned alternate frequencies. Use higher frequencies if the blackout is caused by ionization. If it appears that dust is the problem, use lower frequencies if other corrective measures do not work.

(*Excerpt from Army Field Manual 48-18-1, 31Dec84. The manual discusses the Stinger Missile.*)

TM 9-1425-429-12 covers the maintenance of the Stinger Missile and it is *Restricted*. Of course the Marines use the Stinger Missile and Barstow was a repair depot…

“That’s how you wire the plug for the Stinger Missile to run tests without the IFF.”

“That totally disables the IFF?”

“Not at all, the plug has it bypassed.”

“Let me get this straight, I can shoot down an F/A-18?”

“You can shoot down anything with an infrared signature within 6,500 meters if you follow the Field Manual.”

“Why do we need to disable the IFF?”

“The IFF challenge is coded in either a complex, crypto secure Mode 4 form or a simpler Mode 3 form. All US combat aircraft and helicopters are equipped with transponders to provide friendly Mode 4 and 3 replies.

“However, some aircraft operating in the combat zone, to include US commercial aircraft and some aircraft belonging to our allies, are not capable of providing friendly Mode 4 replies. They can only provide friendly Mode 3 replies. Thus, since the Mode 4 code is secure, a friendly Mode 4 reply is considered a true friend reply. A friendly Mode 3 reply is considered only as a possible friend reply.”

“And that little plug is all we need to bypass the IFF?”

“Haven’t you been listening? Air Farce!”

“I represent that.”

“I know.”

“Can you make more of them?”

“I don’t have to. I assume you want the IFF permanently disabled, right?”

“Right.”

“Disassemble the plug and figure out the wiring. Then, you can solder wires between the pins in the gripstock of the launcher.”

“I’ll run into Elko and get a soldering gun.”

“Get some solder and several sizes and colors of wire while you’re at it. Buy stranded.”

“Why?”

“Solid wire, also called solid-core or single-strand wire consists of one piece of metal wire. Stranded wire is composed of a bundle wires to make a larger conductor.

“Stranded wire is more flexible than solid wire of the same total cross-sectional area. Solid wire is cheaper to manufacture than stranded wire and is used where there is little need for flexibility in the wire. Solid wire also provides mechanical ruggedness; and, because it has relatively less surface area which is exposed to attack by corrosives, protection against the environment. Stranded wire is used when higher resistance to metal fatigue is required. Such situations include connections between circuit boards in multi-printed-circuit-board devices, where the rigidity of solid wire would produce too much stress as a result of movement during assembly or servicing; AC line cords for appliances; musical instrument cables; computer mouse cables; welding electrode cables; control cables connecting moving machine parts; mining machine cables; trailing machine cables; and numerous others.

“At high frequencies, current travels near the surface of the wire because of the skin effect, resulting in increased power loss in the wire. Stranded wire might seem to reduce this effect, since the total surface area of the strands is greater than the surface area of the equivalent solid wire, but ordinary stranded wire does not reduce the skin effect because all the strands are short-circuited together and behave as a single conductor. A stranded wire will have higher resistance than a solid wire of the same diameter because the cross-section of the stranded wire is not all copper, there are unavoidable gaps between the strands (this is the circle packing problem for circles within a circle). A stranded wire with the same cross-section of conductor as a solid wire is said to have the same equivalent gauge and is always a larger diameter.”

“It’s stronger?”

“Isn’t that what I said?”

“In 3 paragraphs, you did.”

I bought black, brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, gray and white. The sales clerk was mumbling, *bad boys rape our young girls but violet gives willingly*. I ask him what that was about and he said it was a short cut to remember resistor color codes and

they had those colors of wire plus gold and silver. I passed because ten colors were enough to remember.

Gunny has disassembled the plug and inserted it in the gripstock. He'd then marked the wires the plug contained with colored magic markers. I used those colors of wires and soldered the pins together. We then found covers and forced them over the gripstock connectors.

Gunny had the latest issue Mk 15 rifle (Tac-50 A1 R2) and a large number of H&K rifles. Aww, I was going to make you guess. Do the numbers 416 and 417 ring your chimes? How about USP Tactical and Compact Tactical? How about the M-25?

Caliber: 7.62×51mm NATO (.308 Win.)
Capacity: 20 or 5 round detachable box magazine
Mechanism: Rotating bolt, gas operated, air cooled,
Semi-automatic magazine fed rifle
Weight: 10.8 lbs (4.9kg)
Length: 44.3" (112.5cm)
Barrel: Match Grade, Heavy Contour, 22", 1:11 RH twist
Stock: McMillan Fiberglass, glass bedded.
Trigger Pull: Specially tuned 4½ pound match two-stage military trigger
Sight: Typically B&L 10x Tactical (Leupold scopes are also used)
Max Effective Range: 900 m (983yards)

The M25 is a joint venture sniper rifle, built for both the US Army Special Forces and the US Navy SEALs. It was originally developed by the 10th SFG base at Ft. Devens in response to a requirement for a match grade M14 for Special Forces sniper teams. USSOCCOM was dubbing the rifle the *Light Sniper Rifle*, and it's also known as the *Sniper Security System* and *Product Improved M21*.

The M25 is similar to the M21 in many regards, it's a National Match M14 glass bedded in a McMillan fiberglass stock, uses a special gas piston, a National Match spring guide and a BPT (Brookfield Precision Tool) Advanced Scope Mounting System. Most rifles use the B&L 10x Tactical scope. Some of the Army rifles use some of the Leupold Ultra Mk 4 series of scopes. (Both the M3 and M1), and the Navy rifles have been seen with Leopold's also (Mk 4s and Vari X-III LR M3s). Ops Inc. suppressors have also been used on some of the rifles.

The rifle has been referenced as both the M25 and XM25 in US Navy and US Army docs, so I guess the rifle has two official nomenclatures. The M25 is NOT a replacement rifle for the M24, it was requested by the USSOCCOM to fill a specific need, and it served extremely well in the Persian Gulf War. The rifle is still considered a "transitional system" but as far as I know there is no development being done on a new semi-auto sniper rifle for SF. (That comment is obviously dated, the author is talking about 1991.)

Gunny had the barrel replaced with the Douglas barrel used in the Super Match, Chrome Moly, not Stainless. That barrel had 1 turn in 10.

Scope: Vari-X III 3.5-10×40mm Long Range M3
Actual Magnification: 3.3(3.5x) 9.7(10x)
Optimum Eye Relief: 4.6" @ 3.5x 3.6" @ 10x
Unrestricted Objective Lens Diameter: 1.575in - 40mm
Weight: 19.5oz - 553gram
Max. Adj. Elv. & Windage @ 100 yards: 65in
Field of view @ 100yd: 29.5(3.5x) 10.7(10x)ft
Length: 13.50in
Max. Mount Ring Spacing: 6.20in
Objective Length: 4.30
Objective Diameter: 1.80in
Eyepiece Diameter: 1.60in
Tube Diameter: 30mm

It wasn't a Nightforce 12-42×56mm, but the price was right, $0!

His next question was, how many did we want? Enough. Well, he guessed he could take the rest back. Hold on there hoss, we'll throw in a pair of geldings with tack and firearms and two mules with pack saddles and panniers. Well, that's different, help yourselves.

About the Nightforce scopes…I let Nightforce chose them. That's why the 7.62×51mm rifles had Nightforce NXS 3.5-15×56 scopes with Velocity 1000 reticles style NP-R1. The Nightforce scope on the McMillan Tac rifles were 12-42×56 Precision Bench rest models with Mil Dot Reticules and MUNS. Those scopes didn't have zero stop. The one shortcoming of the MUNS was that the maximum magnification one could use was 20X. It was sad to pay what the MUNS costs and what the Nightforce 12-42×56mm scope costs and not be able to use both to their best advantage in the dark.

We not only had open pollinated heirloom seeds, we loaded up on the hybrids with the shortest number of days to maturity. That heirloom dent corn took 120 days to maturity while the fastest hybrid took 75 days. We selected 8100 – 81 Day Maturity – $104 per bag of 80,000 kernels because it featured: excellent yield for maturity, above average grain quality, good stress tolerance, excellent root and stalk strength, quick dry down, black-layers early and was also available as untreated. Our source was Elk Mound Seed Company from Elk Mound, Wisconsin and we bought 20 bags. We spent about $2,200 with shipping.

The downside to being mostly retired was keeping oneself entertained. In the winter we could count the snowflakes and in the summer watch the crops grow. Tammy and I could have fooled around except I couldn't find a strong enough vitamin. I ended up spending many summer days on the rifle range. The range wasn't really that long, 400

meters. Nightforce gave the best range to sight the various scopes in for different bullets. The 7.62 was 215 yards, the .50BMG was 210 yards, the .338 was 235 yards, the .416 Barrett was loaded with a 450gr Hornady BTHP bullet and the Nightforce calculator wouldn't work. The workaround was to select the Hornady DG cartridge and give it a shot. That yielded a sight in range of 250 yards.

Ammo to Go had the Barrett for 6.50 per round plus shipping while Impact guns had it for 6.00 per round plus shipping as did others. Barrett was out of stock of both the solid and BTHP and Hornady only manufactured the bullets not the cartridges.

Where are we here? Elko, Nevada dipstick and it's May of 2012 and for sure it's going to be Obama vs. Romney. Not enough snow has melted and soaked in to allow us into the fields or garden. After two years of terrible winters, the media was all over the National Weather Service and they had no comment. On the other hand, The Weather Channel was suggesting that we hadn't seen anything yet and The Farmer's Almanac agreed with them.

Some of those envirofreaks who never get anything right were claiming that the Gulf Stream was sinking. One of them pointed out that had everyone signed the Kyoto Protocol it wouldn't have made any difference. I didn't know any envirofreaks liked George W. Bush. It wasn't quite simple as the Gulf Stream sinking, either. Some of the Gulf Stream goes north and turns west toward North America while the remainder called the North Atlantic Drift continues north and splits with a portion going south to the Canary Islands and the other portion continues north along the coast of Europe.

"This year, at least half the field crop will be open pollinated heirloom rapeseed. We'll save a portion the seed, like we did last year on the other crops, and extract the oil from the balance and use it for biodiesel."

"How many acres of rapeseed?"

"Plant 150 acres in rapeseed and grow the hybrid crops on the remainder as you see fit Alan."

"You know, it seems like I'm more than a foreman. My title should be Ranch Manager."

"Ok, you're the Ranch Manager."

"How big of a raise is that?"

"How much do you want?"

"I want $1,000 more per month."

"I'm going to give you that raise. Half is because you're now a Ranch Manager and half is because you're a better shot than I am and the ranch's official Sniper."

“Do I get to keep the rifles you bought for me to use?”

“What the hell go ahead; keep in mind that anything registered will still be in the corporate inventory.”

You see the problem don’t you? One-hundred fifty acres of rapeseed will produce around 19,000 gallons of oil if all the oil was extracted and one assumes 127 gallons per acre. Rapeseed produces about 2,000 pounds of seed per acre, yielding about 100 gallons of vegetable oil for fuel, as well as 1,200 pounds of high-protein meal (seedcake) which can be used for livestock feed, or composted, or added to a biogas digester to produce methane for cooking and heating, or used to make ethanol. Yields from soybeans are about 60 gallons per acre. Since the table I was using said 127 gallons per acre, one can conclude the yield was 2,540 pounds of rapeseed per acre average as the basis for the table.

That isn’t the problem. The problem is how much of the crop should we preserve? Simple, half! That’s why I’m paying Alan the big bucks, let him decide. However, keep in mind that our biodiesel and oil tanks hold 10,000 gallons each. We can only convert the oil on an as needed basis, 40-gallons per batch. Fred said he had it figured out. We will extract 10,000 gallons of oil and convert it all to biodiesel. Next year we’ll plant 100 acres and Alan can figure from there based on our biodiesel usage and rapeseed reserves. We might be able to market some and buy more methanol and lye.

The six mares had been purchased with foal. The stallion, Champion, was from a different blood line. When it came time to breed the mares again, Champion was the sire. Alan purchased a stallion later from yet another blood line. I’d be willing to bet that a few generations back the stallions were out of the same dam or sired by the same stallion because they looked like twins.

While we could stay even or ahead on our horse population, the mules were a different issue. Not all mules are sterile although a mule giving birth is rare. We were left with two choices, buy donkeys and breed them with the Morgan mares. Make it 2 donkeys, a jack and a jenny. It had an upside; we could breed donkeys for additional pack animals.

Alan knew enough about horses and donkeys to manage the herds. He wasn’t a vet or farrier. Tammy stuck her nose in and suggested he hire a fulltime farrier who was married and had a son or daughter interested in becoming a farrier. She said we’d provide housing and *the usual*. He said he’d look into it and Marilyn and she headed to Elko to buy another doublewide.

Keep in mind the fact that we had spare everything. Each rifle had a dedicated ammo supply and complete set of accessories. The corporation had purchased so many suppressors from Surefire it got Distributor pricing on all of their products.

“How big is that greenhouse going to be when they finish?”

“I originally thought around 19kft² but made a calculation error. It will be 58,500ft².”

“That’s over an acre!”

“Hmm, you’re right Gunny, about 1⅓ acres. If the snow keeps getting deeper, it could be a lifesaver.”

“If the snow gets that deep, how do you propose to get into the greenhouse?”

“I hadn’t thought about that. Come to think of it, we have the same problem with the warehouses.”

“Alan said you had a system to get from your shelter to the barn shelter via tunnels.”

“Yes, we do. The tunnels both connect the basement of the garage to the generator rooms of the shelters. We store the extra oil and filters in the garage.”

“So, put in a tunnel from the garage to the greenhouse and a tunnel to connect the two sections. I think your best bet would to be running it right down the center of the lane and intersecting the tunnel between the barn shelter and the garage.”

“Are you bored yet?”

“A little, why?”

“How about I give you the phone numbers and you set that up to be accomplished as soon as possible.”

“How much does that pay?”

“We won’t stop providing Marilyn and you with beef, pork, chickens, eggs, milk or garden produce.”

“Oh. Ok.”

“Be sure you have the contractor start at the lane end so we can get those sections in and covered over first. Alan isn’t going to be happy not being able to get the equipment into the fields.”

“Tell him what you’re going to do and ask him to park the equipment in the lane past the warehouses. Air Farce!”

The ground had a slight slope with the east side having the highest elevation. The septic system was installed on the east end of the housing area to take advantage of the slope. Marilyn and Tammy got a little carried away and bought 6 new doublewides with

the standard extra appliances and Septic Garbage Disposals. They went one step further and added medium grade furniture.

“Why did you do that?”

“Why did you put in a septic system that would support 24 homes?”

“Well, TOM always ends up with intentional/unintentional communities and I thought it would be easier to put in a big enough system from the gitgo.”

“This will get us to 11 doublewides, leaving room for 12 more before we reach the capacity of the septic system.”

“Why didn’t you just buy 18 and be done with it?”

“We didn’t have enough in the checking account, maybe next year…”

I think she was serious. The tunnels had been emplaced from the warehouses and greenhouse sections and hooked into the tunnel between the barn dome and garage. Understand something; the tunnels were wider than the blast doors. Thank God we’d bought the air purification equipment when we’d bought the buildings. We didn’t need a lot for the greenhouses; the plants converted the CO_2 to O_2. The warehouses were steel buildings and they might withstand a heavy blast wave.

Obama was reelected and we got the November 2012 check. We ordered a lot more ammo although we didn’t really need it. For some reason ammo was as hard to get as it had been in late 2008 through 2009. We also ordered 12 more doublewides so we could fill the housing area.

The date today is January 21, 2013 so you should realize that Planet X missed and the Long Count Calendar started over. The warehouse company had another warehouse on clearance and Tammy bought it. Gunny hadn’t done what I’d told him to do; he’d gone a step further. The tunnels went under both greenhouses as envisioned into a concrete block room with stairs up into the greenhouses.

The warehouse tunnels were entirely different, they went under the warehouses and well past. The concrete block rooms under the warehouse had stairs and an open hatch to allow lowering larger items. When I told Gunny to extend the tunnels, he did, extending them far enough to allow for more warehouses.

With discount pricing, the 12 doublewides, the warehouse and tunnels came in under $2 million. We couldn’t find any ammo to buy. Instead, Tammy contacted Walton Feed about two 53’ semi loads of filled super pails and she’d provide transportation. It wasn’t that far, ~340 miles. Emergency Essentials was our best source for Mountain House products and they were closer. I’m not so sure Tammy didn’t buy all of the Mountain

House products they had in stock. I'm pretty sure she didn't because they'd have been foolish to sell them. It also explains why she contacted several other online retailers.

This warehouse was another 50' × 100' and the tunnel was already in place so Gunny had the contractor excavate down to the tunnel and install a block room and erect block walls to the slab. If he had been thinking, he'd have had the contractor remove the roof from the block room.

He shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient. – Article II, Section 3 of the US Constitution

Obama had given his State of the Union Address in January, 2013. Nowhere within that address did he discuss the climate. It was somewhat surprising, however, that among his proposed legislation was another weapons ban. It wasn't limited to Assault Weapons. He was talking about the Weapons Ban long suggested by the UN. That was nothing new.

On 14 October 2009 the Obama administration announced in a statement released by Hillary Clinton and the State Department that it was overturning the position of former President George W. Bush's administration, which had opposed a proposed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on the grounds that national controls were better. The shift in position by the US, the world's biggest arms exporter with a $55 billion-a-year trade in conventional firearms (40 percent of the global total), led to the launching of formal negotiations at the United Nations in order to begin drafting the Arms Trade Treaty. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a statement the US would support the negotiations on condition they are "under the rule of consensus decision-making needed to ensure that all countries can be held to standards that will actually improve the global situation." Clinton said the consensus, in which every nation has an effective veto on agreements, was needed "to avoid loopholes in the treaty that can be directly exploited by those wishing to export arms irresponsibly."

Given the predominant position of the United States as a global arms exporter, any such treaty would have limited relevance without its participation. Ratification would require passage by a ⅔ majority of the US Senate in addition to presidential approval, which is rendered unlikely by opposition from gun rights groups such as the National Rifle Association, who claim that the treaty is an attempt to circumvent the Second Amendment and similar guarantees in state constitutions in order to impose domestic gun regulations. Advocates of the treaty claim that it only pertains to international arms trade, and would have no effect on current domestic laws. These advocates point to the UN General Assembly resolution starting the process on the Arms Trade Treaty. The resolution explicitly states that it is "the exclusive right of States to regulate internal transfers of arms and national ownership, including through constitutional protections on private ownership."

As of September 14, 2011, 58 US Senators (45 Republicans and 13 Democrats) have expressed their opposition to an ATT that would limit the Second Amendment rights of US citizens. As this group comprises far more than ⅓ of the Senate, it is sufficient to block ratification of the treaty by the United States if the treaty addresses civilian ownership of firearms. However, the strength of the opposition remains unclear because the treaty will not likely address the Second Amendment issue.

A quick search of the Internet (on Feb 8, 2012) confirmed that the treaty is highly controversial in the United States and has been fodder for political speeches, blogs, viral political e-mails and advertisements claiming or insinuating that the treaty provides a *legal way around the 2nd amendment*, and a *complete ban on all weapons for US citizens*. Snopes.com, the *urban myth* tester, calls the viral e-mail *scarelore* and false. The Huffington Post reports that *such a scenario remains virtually impossible*. The Los Angeles Times reports on October 23, 2011 that *only a narrow fringe purports that Americans could see their guns taken away by the UN, which has no authority over constitutional rights*. And brown cows produce chocolate milk.

As a result of the November election, the Senate was now 51-47-2, Republican, Democrat and Independent. The House was even more heavily Republican than before the election. The Republican majority approached ⅔ of the Representatives. That doesn't really mean anything because the Representatives vote their conscience and pocketbooks repaying past favors. If you think I'm lying pull your head out.

The Arms Trade Treaty is the name of a potential multilateral treaty that would regulate the international trade in conventional weapons. Resolution 61/89 requested the UN Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. 94 States submitted their views.

153 Member States voted in favor of Resolution 61/89. UK Ambassador John Duncan formally introduced the resolution in First Committee on October 18, 2006, speaking on behalf of the co-authors (Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, and Kenya). On behalf of the EU, Finland highlighted the support for the effort when it said, "everyday, everywhere, people are affected by the side effects of irresponsible arms transfers... As there is currently no comprehensive internationally binding instrument available to provide an agreed regulatory framework for this activity, the EU welcomes the growing support, in all parts of the world, for an ATT." 24 countries abstained: Bahrain, Belarus, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, UAE, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. The United States of America voted against the resolution.

The announcement (to implement the ATT and suspend the 2nd Amendment) was his Plan A and it was met with significant resistance. The President immediately moved to consider his Plan E. I don't suppose you'd like to guess on what Plan E entails, would

you? You can check the news at 11. I'll give you a hint… the President's Plan E is similar to our Plan D.

Did you see the paper this morning? Obama has issued an Executive Order banning all firearms not in the possession of Military Units and Law Enforcement Organizations, effective right now! I went around and reminded everyone of our Plan D and told them if I caught them without the badges in their possession, they were fired.

"BATFE, keep your hands in plain sight!"

"US Marshals Service, kiss my ass!"

"Are you armed?"

"Do I look like I'm dumb enough to go up against the ATF if I weren't? It doesn't matter, standby one. Alan, which one are you sighted in on?"

"The one doing all of the talking."

"Any questions?"

"What kind of rifle is he using?"

"I'm not sure. It could be a Tac-50, Tac-416, Tac-338 or an M-21. Want me to ask?"

"Uh… ah…"

"Alan, which rifle did you grab?"

"My M-21."

"They claim 800 meters for sure, but Alan was a Designated Marksman in the Corps in Iraq," I said breaking into a smile.

"Are those badges real?"

"Absolutely, positively!"

The dummy should have asked if we were really US Marshals. The badges were real, the ID was fake and nobody but nobody raised his or her right hand and repeated after me. It was a simple time buying ruse that could be quickly disabused.

The ATF had a list of registered NFA weapons we had in inventory. They hadn't known until now that our inventory included a vast collection of sniper rifles. They knew about McMillan's accuracy claims, guaranteed to 0.5 MOA. They didn't know how many of the large caliber rifles we possessed, but they could check the records. What it appeared to

us was that the ATF made a note that US Marshals lived on the ranch and not to waste time checking us out because we had a lot of weapons. That's so unlike the ATF…

During early June of 2013, the President was forced to reveal the science information the government had received from the Secretary of Commerce from NOAA. It ended the speculation and explained why there had been an official news blackout. More importantly, it explained the reason behind his Executive Order. Given the weather and current climate, the armed citizens would probably use those arms to secure food and fuel.

Around the planet, governments were scurrying to maximize their food production and acquire available petroleum products. They should have talked to Willie Nelson. He owns a truck stop that produces its biodiesel onsite. In 2004, he and his wife Annie became partners with Bob and Kelly King in the building of two Pacific Bio-diesel plants, one in Salem, Oregon and the other at Carl's Corner, Texas (the Texas plant was founded by Carl Cornelius, a longtime Nelson friend and the namesake for Carl's Corner). In 2005, Nelson and several other business partners formed Willie Nelson Biodiesel ("Bio-Willie"), a company that is marketing bio-diesel bio-fuel to truck stops. The fuel is made from vegetable oil (mainly soybean oil), and can be burned without modification in diesel engines.

The preparations I/we made were both extensive and expensive. That new warehouse wasn't full either, but close. What Tammy didn't spend and what was left after setting aside operating expenses with a 10% margin, was invested in junk silver as it was giving the most bang for the buck. This year. One other thing while I'm thinking about it, I don't keep a log of the daily gold and silver prices except for what I/we buy. I use Kitco historical gold and silver price charts for dates when we didn't buy gold and silver. Generally the London fixed price is slightly lower than the daily spot price. I didn't know how much lower, I just knew that it was.

We sort of figured that if something happened that caused gold and silver to be the primary currency it was worth what we said it was worth. Filling the new warehouse took on a new, higher priority. What Tammy needed to fill it was sort of available and very pricey. She suggested that we get a bank loan and secure the loan with our supply of gold and silver. I was hesitant to say the least.

Women seem to have ways to get what they want and she used every trick in the book and some that weren't. She contacted Walton Feed and gave them her list of Super pails she wanted, FOB Montpelier. They replied to her email and we printed out both emails and headed to Nevada State Bank.

"Help you?"

"Who do we see for a business loan?"

“Please be seated and I’ll let her know you’re waiting.”

“Honey, I know her. Let me do the talking.”

“I’ve only been in this bank once when I opened the checking account. Be my guest.”

“Mr. and Mrs. Vitter, how may I help you?”

“We’re here to see about a short term business loan.”

“Please come into my office. How short term did you have in mind?”

“It will be repaid before December 1st.”

“How much did you need?”

“Read this.”

“I know them. Walton Feed sells supplies to survivalists.”

“They also sell to preppers. Have you ever seen *Doomsday Preppers* on the National Geographic Channel?”

“I tuned in once but when the guy opened a safe full of guns, I changed channels.”

“Did you see the amount of supplies those people had? We’ve watched reruns and think we should get what some of them have and get enough for the entire ranch staff for a full year. I presume you heard the President’s announcement about the Gulf Stream?”

“What do you propose to use for collateral?”

“We were thinking of using gold and or silver. However the ranch is paid for.”

“One can’t pick up land and walk off with it the way one can with gold and silver. How large is the ranch?”

“It’s 320 acres. The livestock alone are worth more than we’re asking for.”

“I think we can accommodate you, please fill out these papers.”

“Here you go.”

“I thought that there was something about the name Vitter. Your loan is approved and you can forget the papers. How do you want to handle this?”

“How about you wire the money to Walton’s Bank when we leave to pick up the order?”

“And if it’s not ready before your annual distribution you won’t need the loan?”

“I can’t see why we would.”

“Are either of you familiar with revolving lines of credit?”

“No interest or fees unless money is borrowed?”

“Except for Corporations.”

“I see. I think maybe we need to discuss this before we make a decision.”

We agreed on the way home that we didn’t need a revolving line of credit. Tammy contacted Walton on the phone and told them the funds were available but wouldn’t be wired until the order was ready for pickup. They weren’t happy but she agreed to pay a premium for the products. They told her it would sometime after the first of the year and given the snow, they would prefer to ship by rail. She told them to let us know when they were ready to ship and our bank would wire the money. If we didn’t get the goods post haste we’d come looking. We were US Marshals with a duty to enforce that stupid weapons ban.

On the day before Thanksgiving Walton called to say the order was ready to load on the train. Tammy used line 2 to call the bank and set up a conference call. Walton and the bank exchanged information and the funds were transferred before Walton hung up. The bank hung up and Walton told Tammy that the goods were already loaded and would leave sometime today.

On Monday we were notified that we had 2 rail cars of goods to pickup ASAP. Tammy contacted a local cartage firm and arranged the transfer of goods. They loaded the goods and hauled them. Unloading was extra and expensive so we gave it some thought. They wouldn’t bill us until they picked up the last Intermodal container because they needed to know how much to charge for waiting time.

Walton chose to use refrigerated containers. We guessed it was because they were insulated and were all that were available at that moment. The containers were 10.5’ Hi-Cubes 53’ long. Tammy bought the containers and told the cartage firm to bring the machine and unload the containers from the trailers. They brought a reach stacker and unloaded the containers as close to where she wanted them as they could. They handed her an invoice when they arrived and she handed them a check when they left.

Walton doesn’t sell Forgers coffee, Charmin or Always. She called Wal-Mart and Kmart and told them she wanted some. When they asked how much she replied any part of 16,667ft^3 they could get. If they could get it, call before they ordered. Wal-Mart could get 10,000ft^3 and Kmart 5,000ft^3 and they told her what those ft^3 consisted of. It was mostly

Charmin and she ordered all of the Always and 11,111ft³ of Charmin. She called Folgers directly down in New Orleans and asked if she could order 11,111ft³ of Folgers Classic in the largest cans they had. She could and they could ship it by rail when the coffee was ready. Those containers she bought had a volume of (8×10.5×53) 4,452ft³ so she told Folders she wanted them to use refrigerated Hi-Cube containers 10'6" high by 53' long and she'd buy the containers when they arrived… so used was fine.

It is a dark time for the galaxy.

The once great Jedi Council has fallen. Almost all have been destroyed while some are forced to hide in secret places.

The Old Republic has collapsed.

In its ashes, the reign of Emperor Palpatine has begun. With the aide of the greatest of the Jedi, Anakin Skywalker, now Darth Vader, Palpatine has begun the systematic slaughter of every living Jedi and their children. The bloodline of the Jedi is strong and Palpatine knows their children will be Jedi.

But not all the Jedi are gone, merely hidden.

Some like the great Jedi Master Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi still live, somewhere.

Others are waiting and watching, still serving as best they can to free the galaxy and aid the forces of the growing Rebel Alliance.

These are the tales of the dark years when the Rebel Alliance was new and the Jedi wait for the Force to deliver the one who will bring new hope to the galaxy.

It is a period of civil war. Rebel spaceships, striking from a hidden base, have won their first victory against the evil Galactic Empire.

During the battle, rebel spies managed to steal secret plans to the Empire's ultimate weapon, the Death Star, an armored space station with enough power to destroy an entire planet.

Pursued by the Empire's sinister agents, Princess Leia races home aboard her starship, custodian of the stolen plans that can save her people and restore freedom to the galaxy.

It came out in 1977 and made George Lucas a bundle. Choosing Harrison Ford made them even richer because of the Indiana Jones series of movies.

Anyway, I started with a doublewide and lived there until the home dome was finished. The following year the corral and barn dome was constructed and a year later the gar-

age and tunnels. We added farm equipment, grain silos and livestock after that. Plus I had to get 2 more hired hands and that brought us to 3 doublewides. Gunny's doublewide brought us to 4. The doublewide for the Texas Greenhouse crew made 5… and a total of 6 on the septic system leaving room for 18 units. Tammy and Marilyn bought those over the next 2 years bringing us to maximum capacity.

Most of those were unoccupied and costing us money to keep warm during the winter. We were going to hold 2 for a farrier and a DVM. If we could get an MD and or nurse, we'd provide them free housing too.

We wondered which would last, his Plan E or our Plan D. His Plan E was running into all kinds of trouble, about like his Plan A had. So far our Plan D had only been tried once and apparently had succeeded.

Our Plans

Plan A: hunker down and wait for the authorities
Plan B: salvaging what we could from trucks on I-80
Plan C: bug out as ordinary survivors
Plan D: USMS Badges

His Plans

Plan A: ATT and suspend the 2nd Amendment through legislation
Plan E: ATT and suspend the 2nd Amendment by Executive Order

Was it time for the Revolution? The weather was about like the winter of 1777–1778 or worse. The Russians needed food so badly they resumed pumping oil and gas to anyone who would buy it. The Chinese cut the food rations closer to what the North Korean people had endured a year earlier. Nobody had a real excess of food, forcing the Russians to offer gold. At $1,800 an ounce, they were able to buy meat and grain. However it forced the price of gold down.

We spent the entire November 2013 check plus a bank loan for $4 million buying gold at the depressed prices. It was roughly $8.7 million of gold at ~$1,200 per ounce, 7,250oz in 1oz Eagles. When the prices recovered, we exchanged the 1oz Eagles for 0.5, 0.25 and 0.10oz coins. The November 2014 check paid off the bank and the November 2015 check was in the bank. Did Russia run out of gold?

Russia mined gold in the Ural Mountains and Amur Oblast. Amur Oblast has considerable reserves of many types of mineral resources; proven reserves are estimated to be worth US $400 billion. Among the most important are gold (the largest reserves in Russia), silver, titanium, molybdenum, tungsten, copper, tin, etc. Black coal and lignite reserves are estimated to be 70 billion tons. Probable iron deposits are estimated to be 3.8 billion tons. The Garin deposit is fully explored and known to contain 389 million tons of iron ore. Estimated reserves of the deposit are 1,293 million tons. The deposit's

ore contains a low concentration of detrimental impurities; the ore contains 69.9% iron. Amur Oblast is also a promising source of titanium, with the Bolshoy Seyim deposit being the most important.

The gold mines in Amur Oblast were operated by Petropavlovsk plc. The group is one of the largest gold producers in Russia and has been one of the fastest growing gold producers listed on the London Stock Exchange, enjoying an annual year-on-year increase in gold production since it first listed in 2002. The Group produced 506,800oz of gold in 2010 and generated US$612 million in revenue.

The largest US reserves are right beneath our feet in the Carlin Trend. The Carlin Gold Trend is one of the world's richest gold mining districts. It is a belt of gold deposits, primarily in Paleozoic limy sediments, that is about 5 miles wide and 40 miles long, extending in a north-northwest direction through the town of Carlin, Nevada. Gold was first discovered in the area in the 1870s, but there was very little production until 1909, and only about 22,000 ounces was produced through 1964. By 2008, mines in the Carlin Trend had produced over 70 million ounces of gold, worth around $85 billion at 2010 prices.

There are five groups of trends in Nevada. Battle Mountain-Eureka is the largest. There are also Carlin, Alligator Ridge, Gretchell and Independence. The gold started here, was extracted and sold to the government which used it for new gold coins. I'm not sure about the silver.

Silver mining in the United States began on a major scale with the discovery of the Comstock Lode in Nevada in 1858. The industry suffered greatly from the demonetization of silver in 1873 by the "Crime of 73," but silver mining continues today.

The United States produced 1,200 metric tons of silver in 2007, 35% of the silver it used. The remaining 65% was imported from Mexico, Canada, Peru, and Chile. Thirty-six US mines reported silver production. Interest in silver mining has increased in recent years because of increased price of the metal: the average silver price increased from $4.39 per ounce for the year 2001, to $13.45 per ounce for 2007. By 2011, silver prices had soared to almost $40 per ounce before dropping to around $34 per ounce in late June.

The price of silver remained unchanged and the ratio of the prices changed. The ratio is computed using the bid prices and people weren't bidding much for gold, $1,178.60 while the bid price for silver was $34.95, making the ratio 33.72:1. How do I know how they compute the ratio? Simple, I brought up Kitco and my calculator. It showed the ratio of 33.72:1 so I started dividing the prices and eventually determined that the ratio was computed using the bid spot price. That and $4 will get you a latte, somewhere.

I don't know where because, frankly, I don't drink latte. Espresso is made by forcing very hot water under high pressure through finely ground, compacted coffee. This process produces an almost syrupy beverage by extracting both solid and dissolved com-

ponents. It also produces the definitive crema, by emulsifying the oils in the ground coffee into a colloid, which does not occur in other brewing methods. There is no universal standard defining the process of extracting espresso, but there are several published definitions which attempt to place constraints on the amount and type of ground coffee used, the temperature and pressure of the water, and the rate of extraction. Generally, one uses an espresso machine to make espresso. The act of producing a shot of espresso is often termed "pulling" a shot, originating from lever espresso machines, which require pulling down a handle attached to a spring-loaded piston, forcing hot water through the coffee at high pressure. Today, however, it is more common for the pressure to be generated by an electric pump.

Latte is a coffee drink made with espresso and steamed milk or soy milk.

The term "liberal elite" often carries the implicit connotation that the individuals described by the term are hypocritical. For instance, they may support busing and oppose school choice and vouchers, but send their children to private or parochial schools. The liberal elite are often characterized as having an affinity for European culture, especially the culture of France and foreign films. Thus the phrase liberal elite suggests that liberals are unpatriotic, because they like other cultures and are disdainful of American life and culture.

Columnist Dave Barry drew attention to these stereotypes when he commented, "Do we truly believe that ALL red-state residents are ignorant racist fascist knuckle-dragging NASCAR-obsessed cousin-marrying roadkill-eating tobacco-juice-dribbling gun-fondling religious fanatic rednecks; or that ALL blue-state residents are godless unpatriotic pierced-nose Volvo-driving France-loving left-wing communist ***latte***-sucking tofu-chomping holistic-wacko neurotic vegan weenie perverts"?

South Park's creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone use the stereotypes attributed to the liberal elite for comic effect. In the episode Chef's Chocolate Salty Balls, they portrayed members of Hollywood's movie industry as being hypocritical and self-serving and having an affinity for tofu, steamed celery, couscous and the products of organic markets. In the episode *Smug Alert*, they portray San Francisco liberals as haughty and condescending towards people less progressive than themselves and poking fun at the large number of wine and cheese stores in San Francisco. The film *Team America: World Police* includes jokes about the liberal elite, implying that they live in their own protected niche and are thus unaware of the dangers of internationalism. The film lampooned several Hollywood celebrities, including Susan Sarandon, Liv Tyler etc. for their left-wing political views. Michael Moore, who is famous for having left-wing viewpoints whilst making large amounts of money from his books and films, is also lampooned in the film.

Yes Dave I believe that and I don’t drink latte. Susan Sarandon should get a life. Maybe she can get ones for Martin and Charlie Sheen while she’s at it. Tammy and I will never appear on any lists of *Richest People* because we don’t hold onto the money for very long. The corporate bank account contains one year’s worth of operating expenses,

converting any profits to hard money at the beginning of the fiscal year. It's irrelevant; I/we own the corporation, lock, stock and barrel, literally.

For years the Mega Lotto winnings went into the corporate account. More recently the bank automatically transfers those funds to our personal account. With gold staying depressed and the winters getting worse the Administration was up to its armpits in dodo. They had almost no success in seizing firearms from people like me. People like me who knew better than carry their guns in their boats. People like me who had receipts for the cash they received and the serial number of the firearm on the receipt.

"Didn't TOM use the expression 9 foot Indian?"

"I believe that he did, why do you ask?"

"We'd have to get our Indian a 20 foot stepladder."

"Do you really think it will get that deep?"

"It started out at 4' and rising for the winter of 2010-11. The following year it reached 7'. The winter of 2012-13 equaled 101", a new record. It just keeps getting deeper. We're barely into January of 2016 and already have 10' of snow."

"Where did you import the grain and hay from?"

"Southern Arizona. We should have built a greenhouse around the entire half section."

"What's their climate like?"

"Northern Iowa. Guy we bought from used to farm west of Forest City, Iowa. He said in his email that he felt like he was back in Iowa."

"What is our latitude compared to Forest City?"

"Our latitude is 40.8356285095215 according to MSN Maps. Forest City according to the same source is 43.2635803222656. The difference is 2.3279518126785. There is one nautical mile per minute or 60 per °. Therefore we are 139.68 NM or 160¾ SM south of Forest City."

"What's the elevation in Forest City?"

"It's 1,257ft msl and we're 5,066ft msl. We may be better off than they are despite the extra 3,800' in elevation."

"If you believe that, *I have some ocean front property in Arizona. From my front porch you can see the sea...*"

“I’d like to see that. A person 6’3” tall on the seashore could see 60 nautical miles. How high were you planning on building your porch?”

“How high would it need to be?”

“Don’t know, don’t care; I’m taking 3 extra strength Tylenol and will see you in the morning.”

“Waffles with real maple syrup ok?”

“Got any ground sausage?”

“Jimmy Dean.”

“Make than full stack of medium sized and 3 pieces of sausage, I’m hungry...”

“That’s a fresh pot of coffee.”

“Why the special breakfast?”

“Just because?”

“Because why?”

“I bought some spotting scopes.”

“How many?”

“One per sniper rifle. I also bought some Crimson Trace grips.”

“One per handgun?”

“You’re so smart! I told them how many would be going on the PT1911s because you either modify the grip or the pistol. They said they’ll modify the grips. We’ll have them in about 6 weeks.”

“Should I ask how much of our money you spent?”

“You could but I’d advise against it.”

“Just don’t spend it all, we have to buy propane this spring.”

“We need to do something different about heat. Of course I’d suggest adding another 30,000-gallon propane tank just because. What I had in mind was multi-fuel stoves that would burn coal, wood, corncobs and so forth. But when I looked I couldn’t find what I

wanted. I assumed that coal was the hottest burning fuel and selected the Harman Magnum Stoker Coal Stove. It would heat the whole dome and then some."

"Oh really! Did you call them and see how long it would take to get 27 stoves?"

"Why 27?"

"We have our dome and 23 doublewides to start with. Add the two shelters and the garage and we'd need 27. Wait, we'd better heat warehouses and greenhouses. Get 36.

"Then, if you agree, I'll call them back. I think the coal will be very expensive because I'd prefer anthracite. There are ~40 cubic feet per ton. I found a table on the internet.

"How much did you want to buy?"

"I went about it sort of backwards. I figured 300 cords of hardwood and that equaled 240 tons of coal. That would equal a pile of about 9,600ft³ which would be a cube 21.25' in each dimension. I called a coal company back in Pennsylvania and asked about buying 240 tons of coal. I was told that they shipped in hopper cars and 3 80-ton hopper cars would be perfect. He also said all they had available was 100-ton cars."

Fuel Type	BTU's per Unit	Units needed to equal 1 ton
Anthracite Coal	25,000,000/Short Ton	1 Short ton
Fuel Oil (No.2)	138,960/Gallon	180 Gallons
Electricity	3,412/kWh	7327kWh
Natural Gas	100,000/Therm	250 Therms
	1028/Cubic Ft.	24,319 Cubic Ft.
Propane	91,330/Gallon	273 Gallons
Wood	20,000,000/Cord	1.25 Cords
Wood Pellets	16,500,000/Short ton	1.5 Short Tons
Corn	16,500,000/Short ton	1.5 Short Tons
Kerosene	135,000/Gallon	185 Gallons
*The Btu ratings used here are provided by the Department of Energy. Some figures have been rounded. Coal and Wood can have varying Btu contents. This chart does not take into account efficiency.		

"How much?"

"Uh… $200 per ton delivered. I think we should get 300 tons."

“That’s cheap, get 1,000 tons. If nothing else, we’ll go into the coal business.”

“How big of a pile would that be?”

“You figure it out, I have no idea.”

“It’s 34.2’.”

“What’s 34.2’?”

“A cube of 1,000 tons of coal is 40,000 cubic feet and the cube root of 40,000 is 34.2.”

“Did you order it?”

“Which it?”

“The coal, stoves, propane and tank.”

“It’s too late; I’ll have to do it tomorrow.”

“Tomorrow! Tomorrow! I love ya tomorrow! You're always a day away!”

“Keep that up and you’ll be sleeping in the guest room.”

“Tomorrow! Tomorrow! I love ya tomorrow! You're always a day away!”

About the Arms Trade Treaty; the latest proposal I could find when I hooked up my lap-top to the internet in the second bedroom was:

Annex A

For the purposes of this Treaty, conventional arms shall include any items which fall within the following categories:

a. Tanks
b. Military Vehicles
c. Artillery Systems
d. Military Aircraft (armed or unarmed)
e. Military Helicopters (armed or unarmed)
f. Naval Vessels (surface and submarine vessels armed or equipped for military use)
g. Missiles and Missile Systems (guided or unguided)
h. Small Arms
i. Light Weapons
j. Ammunition for use with weapons defined in subparagraphs (a)-(i).

k. Parts or Components specially and exclusively designed for any of the categories in subparagraphs (a)-(j).
1. Technology and Equipment specially and exclusively designed and used to develop, manufacture, or maintain any of the categories in subparagraphs (a)- (k).
2. The international transactions or activities covered by this Treaty include those listed below and defined in Annex A.
a. Import
b. Export
c. Transfer
d. Brokering
e. Manufacture under foreign license
f. Technology transfer

I got a full night's sleep for the first time in a long time. I thought maybe making breakfast for Tammy the following morning would make up for my smartass remark. Unfortunately… when I got up and got dressed, there was plate of cold pancakes and sausage and a warm glass of juice on the table in the dinette/breakfast nook in the kitchen.

"Tammy, I'm sorry."

"Sorry is as sorry does."

"Forrest Gump?"

"Who?"

"You know, *My momma always said, Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. Mama always said, dying was a part of life. I sure wish it wasn't. And cause I was a gazillionaire, and I liked doin it so much, I cut that grass for free. I gotta find Bubba! Her dream had come true. She was a folk singer. When I was in China on the All-American Ping Pong team, I just loved playing Ping-Pong with my Flexolite ping pong paddle. Mama says they was magic shoes. They could take me anywhere. Have you found Jesus yet, Gump? I didn't know I was supposed to be looking for him, sir. This is a new company record! If it wouldn't be such a waste of a damn-fine enlisted man I'd recommend you for OCS! You are gonna be a general someday, Gump, now disassemble your weapon and continue! Stupid is as stupid does…*"

"Stop right there!"

"Stop where?"

"Stupid is as stupid does!"

"Are you calling me stupid?"

"Well…"

“Ok.”

“I got everything ordered. Now, I have a question. How are we going to get it from there to here?”

“From where to here?”

“The rail yard.”

“Trucks?”

“Obviously trucks. You do realize that the snow is 11’ deep and rising.”

“It will melt.”

“Tomorrow! Tomorrow! I love ya tomorrow! You're always a day away!”

“Alright already.”

“Did you get a good night’s sleep?”

“I sure did.”

“Good. I missed my loving last night and you’re going to make up for it.”

(groan) It was just another bump in the road called life. We were so busy preparing for a long term climate change we overlooked some of the implications. I’d hit on it early on and didn’t realize it when I asked, did Russia run out of gold? They sure had and their second principal resource was oil and gas.

In recent years, Russia has frequently been described in the media as an energy superpower. The country has the world's largest natural gas reserves, the 8th largest oil reserves, and the 2nd largest coal reserves. Russia is the world's leading natural gas exporter and 2nd largest natural gas producer, while also the largest oil exporter and the largest oil producer. On 1 January 2011, Russia said it had begun scheduled oil shipments to China, with the plan to increase the rate up to 300,000 barrels per day in 2011.

Russia is the 3rd largest electricity producer in the world and the 5th largest renewable energy producer, the latter due to the well-developed hydroelectricity production in the country. Large cascades of hydropower plants are built in European Russia along big rivers like the Volga. The Asian part of Russia also features a number of major hydropower stations, however the gigantic hydroelectric potential of Siberia and the Russian Far East largely remains unexploited.

Russia was the first country to develop civilian nuclear power and to construct the world's first nuclear power plant. Currently the country is the 4th largest nuclear energy producer, with all nuclear power in Russia being managed by Rosatom State Corporation. The sector is rapidly developing, with an aim of increasing the total share of nuclear energy from current 16.9% to 23% by 2020. The Russian government plans to allocate 127 billion rubles ($5.42 billion) to a federal program dedicated to the next generation of nuclear energy technology. About 1 trillion rubles ($42.7 billion) is to be allocated from the federal budget to nuclear power and industry development before 2015.

If you think the snow was deep in Elko, you should be glad you weren't in Moscow. And therein was the rub. Europe didn't have the money to buy Russian natural gas or oil. In a way, failure of the world to embrace the Kyoto Protocol did have an effect in peoples' minds if not in fact. Europe barely had enough food to feed their population and none to export. The US wasn't in much better shape than Europe.

Africa had the land but lacked the water. Countries either had more water than they wanted or a drought. God must have a sense of humor and He was rolling in the aisle.

Blessed are:

the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew)

Woe unto you:

that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

that are full now! for ye shall hunger.

that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their fathers to the false prophets. (Luke)

The seven woes of hypocrisy are:

they taught about God but did not love God – they did not enter the kingdom of heaven themselves, nor did they let others enter.

they preached God but converted people to dead religion, thus making those converts twice as much sons of hell as they themselves were.

they taught that an oath sworn by the temple or altar was not binding, but that if sworn by the gold ornamentation of the temple, or by a sacrificial gift on the altar, it was binding. The gold and gifts, however, were not sacred in themselves as the temple and altar were, but derived a measure of lesser sacredness by being connected to the temple or altar. The teachers and Pharisees worshipped at the temple and offered sacrifices at the altar because they knew that the temple and altar were sacred. How then could they deny oath-binding value to what was truly sacred and accord it to objects of trivial and derived sacredness?

they taught the law but did not practice some of the most important parts of the law – justice, mercy, faithfulness to God. They obeyed the minutiae of the law such as tithing spices but not the real meat of the law.

they presented an appearance of being 'clean' (self-restrained, not involved in carnal matters), yet they were dirty inside: they seethed with hidden worldly desires, carnality. They were full of greed and self-indulgence.

they exhibited themselves as righteous on account of being scrupulous keepers of the law, but were in fact not righteous: their mask of righteousness hid a secret inner world of ungodly thoughts and feelings. They were full of wickedness. They were like white-washed tombs, beautiful on the outside, but full of dead men's bones.

they professed a high regard for the dead prophets of old, and claimed that they would never have persecuted and murdered prophets, when in fact they were cut from the same cloth as the persecutors and murderers: they too had murderous blood in their veins. (Matthew)

Remember, God taught Job patience. Or, maybe He hadn’t allowed for the actions of desperate men. Russia cut off the oil and gas and Europe threatened war. It was like watching the big bad wolf dealing with the 3 Little Pigs in the house made of brick. Think about it… Plus China wanted a large slice of the pie, not believing there was no pie to divide.

President Obama was too busy being a lame duck to get involved. Lame hell, he was positively crippled. Sometimes the things you don’t do are worse than the things you do.

He was too busy trying to disarm America and debating his partially illegal healthcare law to worry about the other side of the pond. What the hell, for the first time in about 100 years, the US had NO troops on foreign soil. We had ships in their waters, but that was different.

The Enterprise had been retired and was being held in the Reserve Fleet having been replaced by the Ford. The Nimitz would be replaced by the Kennedy in about 18 months and CVN 80 (unnamed) would replace the Eisenhower around 2021. Don't forget the Zumwalt class DDGs. The Zumwalt DDG-1000 and the Michael Monsoor DDG-1001 were in service and the unnamed DDG-1002 would be delivered in 2018. The probable name the 3rd DDG was the Robert A. Heinlein.

Although classified as museum ships, the Iowa and the Wisconsin were in near ready battle status and could return to sea in ~90 days. The Navy was keeping Ticonderoga and Burke class ships in the Reserve Fleet, just in case. The world economy had perked up, briefly, and it got cold, dumping it back in the toilet. It would take all the Reserve Fleet cruisers and destroyers to have enough escorts for the Reserve Carriers and Battleships.

Russia had completed and equipped their new Borei class, 3 block I and 3 block II. Block I had 16 missile tubes and block II 20. Each missile had 6 warheads. Let's see, 48 + 60 = 108 missiles × 6 = 658. Although bigger than an Ohio class, it was under gunned. The total order was for 10 SSBNs; probably block II so add another 80 missiles × 6 = 240, a grand total of 888. It only counts if they use them.

Television is wondrous in many ways since it takes you places you'd never be able to go yourself. An example was the Russian Shelter System built into the Moscow Metro. The beginning of the Cold War led to the construction of a deep section of the Arbatsko-Pokrovskaya Line. The stations on this line were planned as shelters in the event of nuclear war. After finishing the line in 1953 the upper tracks between Ploshchad Revolyutsii and Kiyevskaya were closed, and later reopened in 1958 as a part of the Filyovskaya Line. In the further development of the Metro the term "stages" was not used any more, although sometimes the stations opened in 1957–1959 are referred to as the "fifth stage".

During the late 1950s the architectural extravagance of new Metro stations was toned down, and decorations at some stations (such as VDNKh and Alexeyevskaya) were simplified by comparison with the original plans. This was done on the orders of Nikita Khrushchev, who favored more spartan decoration. A typical layout (which quickly became known as Sorokonozhka–"centipede", from early designs with 40 concrete columns in two rows) was developed for all new stations and the stations were built to look almost identical, differing from each other only in colors of the marble and ceramic tiles. Most stations were built with simpler, less-costly technology; this was not always appropriate, and resulted in utilitarian design. For example, walls with cheap ceramic tiles were susceptible to train vibration and some tiles eventually fell off. It was not always possible to replace the missing tiles with the ones of the same color, which eventually

led to variegated parts of the walls. Not until the mid-1970s was the architectural extravagance restored and original designs again popular. However, the newer design of "centipede" stations (with 26 more-widely-spaced columns) continued to dominate.

Metro-2 in Moscow, Russia, is the informal name for a purported secret underground metro system which parallels the public Moscow Metro. The system was supposedly built, or at least started, during the time of Joseph Stalin and was codenamed D-6 by the KGB. It is supposedly still operated by the Presidential General Directorate of Special Programs and Ministry of Defense.

The length of Metro-2 is rumored to exceed that of the public Metro. It is said to have four lines, and to lie 50 to 200m deep. It is said to connect the Kremlin with the FSB headquarters, the government airport at Vnukovo-2, and an underground town at Ramenki, in addition to other locations of national importance.

In 1994, the leader of an urban exploration group, the Diggers of the Underground Planet, claimed to have found an entrance to this underground system. The Metro-2 rumors have been dismissed by one source as "a parody excursion by public transport into the murky world of *intelligence*". This source describes virtually all available information as *speculative, unsupported by documentation such as photographs. There are narratives told by people who said they helped build Metro-2, and urban spelunkers claim to have seen Metro-2, but there are no explicit firsthand accounts.*

General description based on the likely characteristics of Metro-2:

Laid to a very deep depth - likely between 50 and 200 meters.

No third rail.

Single track tunnels, with sidings at some stations.

Uses contact-battery electric locomotives Type L, with EHZ 6 cars. More recently, two Metrovagonmash RA1 railbuses.

Uses Kleinloks with trailer platform UP-2 for transportation of household goods.

Has 4 main lines, according to some reports, the largest of which is the Chekhov line at over 60km.

Has the same general characteristics of Soviet underground facilities.

Has the rails recessed into the ground to allow the passage of cars.

Under Ramenki District, there exists a depot and a major bunker for local residents.

In 1991, the United States Department of Defense published a report entitled Military forces in transition, which devoted several pages to a secret government underground in Moscow. It also included a diagram of the system superimposed on a map of the city.

"The Soviets have constructed deep-underground both in urban Moscow and outside the city. These facilities are interconnected by a network of deep interconnected subway lines that provide a quick and secure means of evacuation for the leadership. The leadership can move from their peacetime offices through concealed entryways in protective quarters beneath the city. There are important deep-underground command posts in the Moscow area, one located at the Kremlin. Soviet press has noted the presence of an enormous underground leadership bunker adjacent to Moscow State University. These facilities are intended for the national command authority in wartime. They are estimated to be 200-300 meters deep, and can accommodate an estimated 10,000 people. A special subway line runs from some points in Moscow and possibly to the VIP terminal at Vnukovo Airfield." – Military forces in transition, 1991, p. 40

You've seen the TV show, right? Well, I did, so you'll just have to take my word it exists. It suggested a *First Strike* option for the Russians to me when I saw the show. The point is it did for the Russians what the tube did for the population of London during The Blitz.

Russia needed food desperately and nobody was selling. Russia had a hole card, natural gas and they once again played their hole card as they had during the 1st and early 2nd decade. The European Union couldn't accept that because they began to freeze. They imported ~26.4% of their natural gas and 60.2% of their oil and petroleum products.

The European Union does not have one unified military. The predecessors of the European Union were not devised as a strong military alliance because NATO was largely seen as appropriate and sufficient for defense purposes. 21 EU members are members of NATO while the remaining member states follow policies of neutrality. The Western European Union, a military alliance with a mutual defense clause, was disbanded in 2010 as its role had been transferred to the EU.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), France spent more than $44 billion on defense in 2010, placing it third in the world after the US and China, while the United Kingdom spent almost €39 billion, the fourth largest. Together, France and the United Kingdom account for 45 per cent of Europe's defense budget, 50 per cent of its military capacity and 70 per cent of all spending in military research and development. In 2000, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, and Germany accounted for 97% of the total military research budget of the then 15 EU member states.

Following the Kosovo War in 1999, the European Council agreed that "the Union must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed by credible military forces, the means to decide to use them, and the readiness to do so, in order to respond to international crises without prejudice to actions by NATO". To that end, a number of efforts were

made to increase the EU's military capability, notably the Helsinki Headline Goal process. After much discussion, the most concrete result was the EU Battlegroups initiative, each of which is planned to be able to deploy quickly about 1500 personnel.

EU forces have been deployed on peacekeeping missions from Africa to the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East. EU military operations are supported by a number of bodies, including the European Defense Agency, European Union Satellite Centre and the European Union Military Staff. In an EU consisting of 27 members, substantial security and defense cooperation is increasingly relying on great power cooperation.

So… Tammy and I are sitting here wondering how cold it's going to get when you add Nuclear Winter to the climate change. One and one-quarter cords of wood equals one ton of coal. Wood is a renewable resource, especially if you don't differentiate between softwood and hardwood.

"I know a guy who may know someone who could supply us with a large supply of firewood. If we could get 1,250 cords of hardwood it would double our supply of heating material."

"After you call him, call the coal company back and double the order for coal to 2,000 tons."

"Why stop there Rob? Did you read TOM's story *The Lodge*?"

"What does that have to do with us? If I recall correctly, the lodge was on Montrose Lake near Clinton, Missouri, my home town."

"How much coal did they have?"

"They had close to ½ million tons of Wyoming coal. Are you suggesting we build our own mountain?"

"Order 5,000 tons. That will cost an even million. Forget the hardwood because it costs more than coal."

"Hang on a second. Before you ask, the answer is 58.48'."

"The size of the coal pile if it were a cube?"

"Did you take a smart pill this morning?"

"I was too tired."

Doomsday Preppers – Chapter 2

Boulder – Although Arctic sea ice appears fated to melt away as the climate continues to warm, the ice may temporarily stabilize or somewhat expand at times over the next few decades, new research indicates.

The computer modeling study, by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, reinforces previous findings by other research teams that the level of Arctic sea ice loss observed in recent decades cannot be explained by natural causes alone, and that the ice will eventually disappear during summer if climate change continues.

But in an unexpected new result, the NCAR research team found that Arctic ice under current climate conditions is as likely to expand as it is to contract for periods of up to about a decade.

“One of the results that surprised us all was the number of computer simulations that indicated a temporary halt to the loss of the ice,” says NCAR scientist Jennifer Kay, the lead author. “The computer simulations suggest that we could see a 10-year period of stable ice or even a slight increase in the extent of the ice. Even though the observed ice loss has accelerated over the last decade, the fate of sea ice over the next decade depends not only on human activity but also on climate variability that cannot be predicted.”

Kay explains that variations in atmospheric conditions such as wind patterns could, for example, temporarily halt the sea ice loss. Still, the ultimate fate of the ice in a warming world is clear.

“When you start looking at longer-term trends, 50 or 60 years, there’s no escaping the loss of ice in the summer,” Kay says.

Kay and her colleagues also ran computer simulations to answer a fundamental question: why did Arctic sea ice melt far more rapidly in the late 20th century than projected by computer models? By analyzing multiple realizations of the 20th century from a single climate model, they attribute approximately half the observed decline to human emissions of greenhouse gases, and the other half to climate variability.

These findings point to climate change and variability working together equally to accelerate the observed sea ice loss during the late 20th century.

The study appears this week in Geophysical Research Letters. It was funded by the National Science Foundation, NCAR’s sponsor.

Since accurate satellite measurements became available in 1979, the extent of summertime Arctic sea ice has shrunk by about one third. The ice returns each winter, but the extent shrank to a record low in September 2007 and is again extremely low this year, already setting a monthly record low for July. Whereas scientists warned just a

few years ago that the Arctic could lose its summertime ice cover by the end of the century, some research has indicated that Arctic summers could be largely ice-free within the next several decades.

To simulate what is happening with the ice, the NCAR team used a newly updated version of one of the world's most powerful computer climate models. The software, known as the Community Climate System Model, was developed at NCAR in collaboration with scientists at multiple organizations and with funding by NSF and the Department of Energy.

The research team first evaluated whether the model was a credible tool for the study. By comparing the computer results with Arctic observations, they verified that, though the model has certain biases, it can capture observed late 20th century sea ice trends and the observed thickness and seasonal variations in the extent of the ice.

Kay and her colleagues then conducted a series of future simulations that looked at how Arctic sea ice was affected both by natural conditions and by the increased level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The computer studies indicated that the year-to-year and decade-to-decade trends in the extent of sea ice are likely to fluctuate increasingly as temperatures warm and the ice thins.

"Over periods up to a decade, both positive and negative trends become more pronounced in a warming world," says NCAR scientist Marika Holland, a co-author of the study.

The simulations also indicated that Arctic sea ice is equally likely to expand or contract over short time periods under the climate conditions of the late 20th and early 21st century.

Although the Community Climate System Model simulations provide new insights, the paper cautions that more modeling studies and longer-term observations are needed to better understand the impacts of climate change and weather variability on Arctic ice.

The authors note that it is also difficult to disentangle the variability of weather systems and sea ice patterns from the ongoing impacts of human emissions of greenhouse gases.

"The changing Arctic climate is complicating matters," Kay says. "We can't measure natural variability now because, when temperatures warm and the ice thins, the ice variability changes and is not entirely natural."

Between what we already knew from times since passed and what we could get off BBC the EU appeared to be setting the stage to take on the Russians over the natural gas being cut off. Russia wasn't budging and neither was the EU. The UK and France were the only nuclear powers *per se*.

In peace time, the nuclear weapons stored in non-nuclear countries are guarded by US soldiers; the codes required for detonating them are under American control. In case of war, the weapons are to be mounted on the participating countries' warplanes. The weapons are under custody and control of USAF Munitions Support Squadrons co-located on NATO main operating bases who work together with the host nation forces.

The UK stored US weapons at Lakenheath, Germany had weapons vaults at five Air bases, Italy had them at two, Greece one and Turkey three. Other countries also had weapons stored including Belgium and the Netherlands. All US weapons stored were B61 bombs. The B61 nuclear bomb is the primary thermonuclear weapon in the US Enduring Stockpile following the end of the Cold War. It is an intermediate yield strategic and tactical nuclear weapon featuring a two-stage radiation implosion design.

The B61 is a variable yield bomb (0.3 to 340 kiloton yield in various versions and settings) designed for carriage by high-speed aircraft. It has a streamlined casing capable of withstanding supersonic flight speeds. The weapon is 11’8” (3.58 m) long, with a diameter of about 13” (33 cm). Basic weight is about 700 pounds (320 kg), although the weights of individual weapons may vary depending on version and fuze/retardation configuration.

When EM radiation at the frequencies for which it is referred to as “radio waves” impinges upon a conductor, it couples to the conductor, travels along it, and induces an electric current on the surface of the conductor by exciting the electrons of the conducting material. These effects can cover macroscopic distances, since the wavelength of radio waves is long, by human scales. The effect of long distance influence in conductors is used in radio antennas. Radio waves thus have the most overtly "wave-like" characteristics of all the types of EMR, since their waves are so long. Radio waves are commercially useful, since they can be made to carry information by varying the amplitude, frequency or phase.

Starfish Prime, where the US discovered EMP officially, used a W49 thermonuclear warhead – LASL developed ICBM/IRBM warhead; Used in Thor (Mod 0,1, 3), Atlas (Mod 0, 1), Titan, Jupiter (Mod 0, 1, 3, 5) warhead; 2 RVs used Mk-2 heat sink and Mk-3 ablative; 2 yields, 7 mods; Mk/W-28 adaptation with new arming/fuzing system; PAL A; successor to W-35. Officially because I don’t believe that some of the scientists associated with the Manhattan Project didn’t know ahead of time.

“I called the coal company. He suggested that we fill the order immediately because he doesn’t like the look of things on the other side of the pond.”

“Europe?”

“He could have been talking about China. I don’t see that it makes much difference. The 50 hopper cars of coal will be here in less than a week. I called the bank and gave them his number so they could call him and set up the wire transfer.”

“I still don’t see how we’re going to get the coal from the rail yard to here.”

“How far would you say it is to the rail line from our property line?”

“The snowed in line?”

“Yes, how far is it?”

“It’s about a quarter mile.”

“And can we rent some front end loaders?”

“From whom?”

“Everyone in the area that has one; we can even hire them to operate the loaders. First thing we do is scrape a large spot to dump coal on. We could have that done before the coal arrives. If it’s only a quarter mile, they could clear the path and make it more than two loaders wide. But, we’d need large buckets.” Little did we know at the time.

“How about contacting one of the mines?”

“Good idea. Is the Humboldt going to be a problem?”

“I don’t think so; it’s on the backside of our property. That had a lot to do with me selecting this piece of land, road on the front and river on the back. I didn’t have to go far to go fishing.”

That’s the view from the top of our barn dome. It’s not Elko; it’s Carlin. Elko is the county seat and when we *go to town*, we go to Elko. There are two tracks east of Carlin, main lines and the line we were discussing was the southern main line. It happened to be the one they hadn’t plowed out. So we also had to arrange for the rail line to make a pass with a snow plow.

Talk about a mad house… you’d have thought the loaders were gold plated (Maybe they were, they worked the mines) and the operators were the Crown Prince of England. That dude is getting old…

They might not be gold plated, but the loader was huge. I mean like Cat 994 30yd^3 bucket loader huge. And the 400 ton payload Cat 797 off road mining truck was even larger.

I’ve said before and I’ll say it again, biff, boom and bamm and we were ready for the coal delivery.

The choke point of the coal haul was the open top, bottom dump rail car unloading conveyor on the rail siding. It took hours to transfer the anthracite coal from four of the railroad cars to the single Cat 797 haul truck. It only took a few minutes to travel the quarter mile and dump the load in the clearing close to the outermost warehouse.

A bit of time for the 994 loader to push the coal into a long, wide pile while the 797 was going after another 4 rail cars worth and the loader driver took a nap or read. The pile, when completed, was a rectangle 200 feet long, 15 feet high, and 67 feet front to back, give or take a few inches, a volume of 200,000ft^3.

Funny thing was, the mine didn’t want gold in payment. It was biodiesel only and a lot of it. Plus, they sent the equipment down with just enough fuel to get here. We filled the equipment before we started and filled it again after we finished.

Everyone had a coal burning stove for heat in addition to their propane furnace, just because it was only money. It’s easy to say when you have some, you know. Plus, you can’t take it with you unless you have a gold casket. Make it platinum, it’s only worth a little more. I just wanted a wood box. Hardwood with fancy carving but a wood box just the same.

Trying to keep abreast of developments in Europe, I checked BBC several times a day on the internet at bbc.co.uk/news/. About a month after the coal delivery, I received a Internet Explorer cannot display the webpage error message. The Domain Name System (DNS) is a hierarchical distributed naming system for computers, services, or any

resource connected to the Internet or a private network. It associates various information with domain names assigned to each of the participating entities.

A Domain Name Service translates queries for domain names (which are meaningful to humans) into IP addresses for the purpose of locating computer services and devices worldwide.

When IE11 returned that message it meant that the DNS gave an IP address that IE11 couldn't connect to. I tried 3 other links I had to companies in the UK with the same results.

"Tammy, something's up. Maybe I should say down. I just went to check BBC to get the latest news and got cannot display the webpage error message."

"Did you diagnose the connection?"

"Sure did and Windows let me down."

"Did you try links in the US?"

“No, I didn’t.”

“Try one and if you get it to come up, try BBC again.”

“Jerry’s forum and Preparedness Center came up but BBC gave the same error message.”

“It has to be on their end.”

“Let me check Fox and CNN.”

“What did you find?”

“Both say that they lost contact with the UK and Europe. Ditto Moscow and Beijing.”

“I don’t like it.”

“Get ready to enter the shelter through the hall closet. I’ll lower the contents of the refrigerator in the basket on the rope. When you’re down there, call everyone on CB, Business Band or whatever works. Tell them we’re going to enter the shelter. Tell Alan to close the barn doors, just in case.”

“I read that you know.”

“Read what?”

“Jerry’s story *Just in Case*.”

“Haven’t read it, is it on the computer?”

“All of his published stories are on the laptop.”

“Do you have TOM, Grand and the others?”

“Most of them, I bought both CDs and copied all of Grand’s.”

“I saw TOMs CD. I wonder if that image is a prophecy.”

“I hope not.”

“Has he ever written a story that didn’t include a GTW?”

“I don’t know and frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.”

“GWTW… close but no cigar.”

“I don’t smoke.”

“Neither do I but I might have to dip into our trade goods. At least the Res is close if we need more.”

“Which one?”

“Take your pick, I did and never bought more than a case at a time from any of the three. TOM has that wrong; only some cigarettes come 30 cartons to the case.”

(Cigarettes, which come in various numbers of cartons per case depending on the brand, are among the most commonly traded products on the black market. This is due to high profit margins, relative ease of movement and low detection rates and penalties. The main drivers for the growing trade in illicit cigarettes are economic – cheaper cigarettes for consumers and easy profits for the smugglers and counterfeiters. It was illegal

to buy cigarettes from the Res… catch me if you can. Arizona allows cigarette purchases from the Res if you pay Arizona tax at the time of purchase.)

“I didn’t know you smoked.”

“I’ve never smoked. I did use cigarettes until I made Staff Sergeant.”

“So you smoked!”

“Never! The cigarettes smoked when they were lit and I inhaled the smoke.”

“You can’t smoke in the dome or shelter!”

“Fair enough, I’ll smoke in the tunnel.”

“Be sure to take a chair and a warm coat.”

She didn’t mention a butt can so I assumed she didn’t know what a butt can was. Never assume… it makes an ass out of u and me. A butt can is generally a #10 can and back in the day, they hung them from the posts in open bay barracks before they got *politically correct*.

Political correctness (adjectivally, politically correct; both forms commonly abbreviated to PC) is a term which denotes language, ideas, policies, and behavior seen as seeking to minimize social and institutional offense in occupational, gender, racial, cultural, sexual orientation, certain other religions, beliefs or ideologies, disability, and age-related contexts, and, as purported by the term, doing so to an excessive extent. In current usage, the term is primarily pejorative, while the term politically incorrect has been used as an implicitly positive self-description. Examples of the latter include the conservative The Politically Incorrect Guide published by Regnery Publishing and the television talk show Politically Incorrect. In these cases, the term politically incorrect connotes language, ideas, and behavior unconstrained by a perceived orthodoxy or by concerns about offending or expressing bias regarding various groups of people.

Early usages of the phrase “politically correct” have been found in various contexts, which may not relate to the current terminology. Examples of the term can be found as early as the 18th century. The previous meaning was ‘in line with prevailing political thought or policy’. The term previously used ‘correctness’ in its literal sense and without any particular reference to language that might be considered offensive or discriminatory. For example, J. Wilson’s comments in US Republic, 1793:

“The states, rather than the people, for whose sake the states exist, are frequently the objects which attract and arrest our principal attention... Sentiments and expressions of this inaccurate kind prevail in our common, even in our convivial, language... ‘The United States,’ instead of the ‘People of the United States,’ is the toast given. This is not politically correct.”

By 1970, New Left proponents had adopted the term political correctness. In the essay *The Black Woman*, Toni Cade Bambara says: *. . . a man cannot be politically correct and a [male] chauvinist too*. The New Left later re-appropriated the term political correctness as satirical self-criticism; per Debra Shultz: *Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the New Left, feminists, and progressives . . . used their term politically correct ironically, as a guard against their own orthodoxy in social change efforts*. Hence, it is a popular English usage in the underground comic book Merton of the Movement, by Bobby London, while ideologically sound, an alternative term, followed a like lexical path, appearing in Bart Dickon's satirical comic strips. Moreover, Ellen Willis says: *. . . in the early '80s, when feminists used the term political correctness, it was used to refer sarcastically to the anti-pornography movement's efforts to define a 'feminist sexuality'*.

Examples of language commonly referred to as *politically correct* include:

Intellectually disabled in place of *Retarded* and other terms

African American in place of *Black*, *Negro* and other terms. (However, *Black* is used in English-speaking countries other than the US)

Native American (or *First Nations* in Canada) in place of *Indian*

Caucasian in place of *White*, and other terms (*Honkey*, *Ofay*).

Gender-neutral terms such as *firefighter* in place of *fireman*, *police officer* in place of *policeman*.

Terms relating to disability, such as *visually impaired* or *hearing impaired* in place of *blind* or *deaf*

Holiday, *winter* or *festive* in place of *Christmas* (started when they took Christ out of Christmas and replaced it with Xmas)

In the United Kingdom, *political correctness gone mad* is a catchphrase associated with the conservative Daily Mail newspaper.

In a more general sense, any policy regarded by the speaker as representing an imposed orthodoxy may be criticized as *politically correct*.

Geez, we may have incoming warheads and I'm worried about Indians.

The US didn't get attacked with nuclear weapons for whatever reason. Perhaps Russia gambled on the US not getting involved since we hadn't actually been directly involved. You got to know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em. Obama didn't retaliate and I'm

not really surprised. I'm not so sure he'd have retaliated if we'd been attacked. Vlad won that round.

The only countries with good agricultural production were located between 20°N and 20°S. In the bottom tier of US states, they got production, just not enough to go around and it went to the highest bidder. That was the best $10 I ever spent.

I've been known to take a drink and generally buy *the good stuff*. It took a lot of research but I eventually found out that high alcohol beers have a very long shelf life if properly stored. Like being refrigerated and keep in the dark. Carling Black Label had such a product with 10% alcohol by volume. When we had the last warehouse erected, we put in the largest walk-in cooler we could find and filled it with Black Label. I never knew when I might want a beer and there was only one way to guarantee a supply, buy it and store it.

So now we were all in the shelters and with the tunnels could access everything on the ranch except the coal pile. I had a tunnel in the planning stages but it would have to wait until spring. When we'd been sheltered for over a day and received no indication on the CD V-717 or AMP-200 that we'd received radiation we stuck a CD V-700 out and the needle only showed background radiation.

"Y'all can come out of the shelter; the radiation is the regular background level."

"Does the sun look funny to you?"

"Define funny."

"I don't know how to describe it."

"You're not suggesting a pole shift, are you?"

"I'm not suggesting anything, it was a simple question."

"We'll watch where it sets and go from there."

"There you go Tammy, the same place as always."

"It still looks funny."

"That's not all that is funny; turn on the radio or TV."

"This is NOT funny! The internet is down too."

"That's not right; it worked when we went into the shelter. Remember I couldn't raise the BBC website."

“You don’t suppose we got hit with…”

“An EMP? Let me check the power output of the PV panels.”

“Well?”

“They’re producing juice and charging the submarine batteries. If we did get hit with an EMP, that answers the question of whether or not EMP would fry the PV panels. We’re rich! We can sell all of the spare panels, inverters/charge controllers and they can get their own dang batteries.”

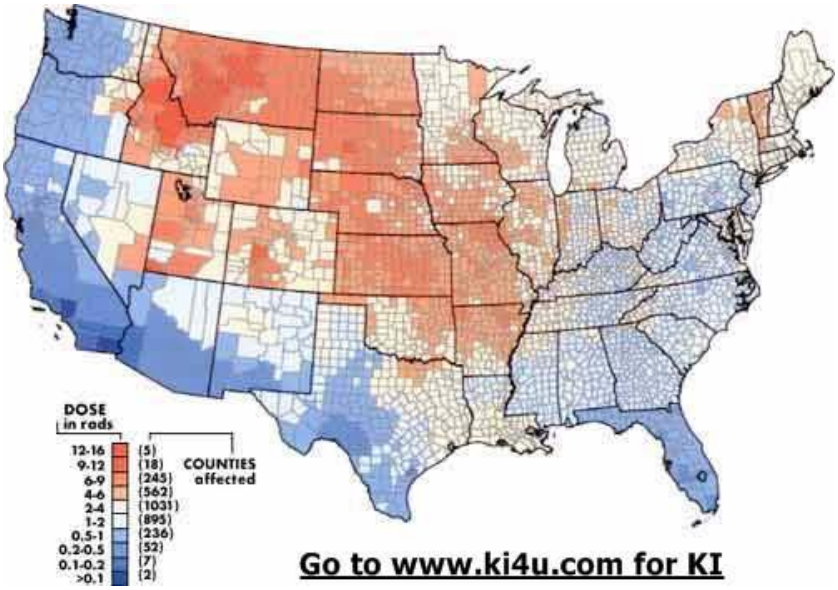
“Have you always been so… mercenary?”

“Only since I won the Mega Lotto.”

You should know you’re in trouble when you can finish other peoples’ sentences. Be that as it may, a short time later we began to receive low level of fallout.

America's next nuclear concerns may not have originated here, but be instead from a nuclear bomb or nuclear release overseas.

A Chernobyl-type event affecting people in other countries downwind and far away from the actual event itself. Or, a nuclear blast, like when a single, and very small, above ground Chinese nuclear test explosion on December 28, 1966 resulted in the fallout cloud covering most of the United States a few days later. There will be a big difference whether the event was a nuclear power plant accident or conventional bombs used in Iran or North Korea or actual nuclear weapons, as well as in how many locations in Iran or North Korea, in both how much fallout was created and how high it is ejected into those upper winds, that will affect greatly how much and far downwind the fallout will then be a serious threat.



That’s the map I had copied about the fallout cloud covering most of the United States a few days later.

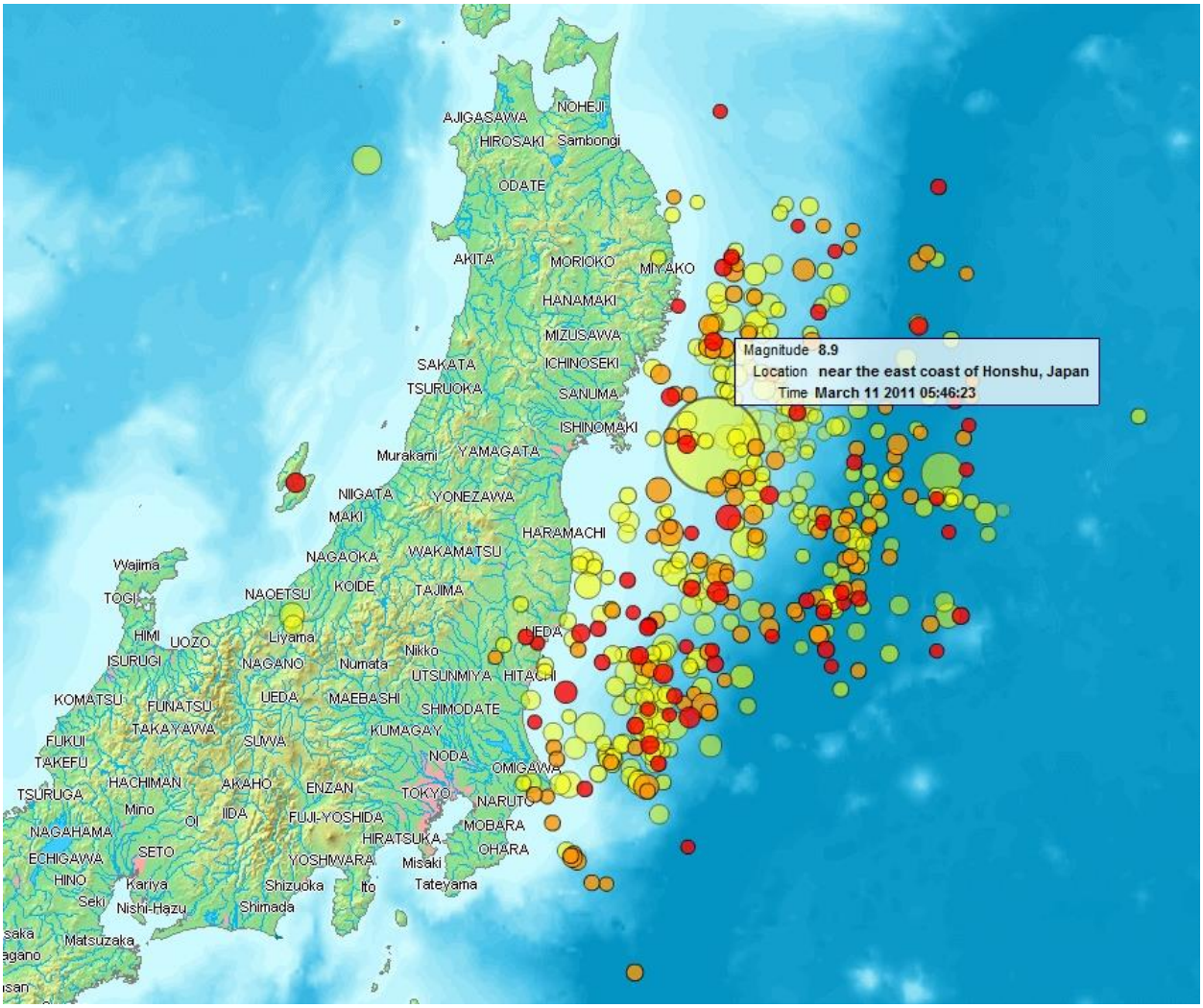
Of course, anything could happen anywhere anytime, like it did in Japan, because of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake not just from Iran or North Korea in the future. (The World Bank's estimated economic cost was US$235 billion, making it the most expensive natural disaster in world history.)

This is the map of the Tōhoku earthquake. The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster was a series of equipment failures, nuclear meltdowns, and releases of radioactive materials at the Fukushima I Nuclear Power Plant, following the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011. It was the largest nuclear disaster since the Chernobyl disaster of 1986.

The plant comprises six separate boiling water reactors originally designed by General Electric (GE), and maintained by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO). At the time of the quake, Reactor 4 had been de-fuelled while 5 and 6 were in cold shutdown for planned maintenance. The remaining reactors shut down automatically after the earthquake, and emergency generators came online to control electronics and coolant systems. The tsunami broke the reactors' connection to the power grid and also resulted in flooding of the rooms containing the emergency generators. Consequently those generators ceased working and the pumps that circulate coolant water in the reactor ceased to work, causing the reactors to begin to overheat. The flooding and earthquake damage hindered external assistance.

In the hours and days that followed, reactors 1, 2 and 3 experienced full meltdown. As workers struggled to cool and shut down the reactors, several hydrogen explosions occurred. The government ordered that seawater be used to attempt to cool the reactors – this had the effect of ruining the reactors entirely. As the water levels in the fuel rods pools dropped, they began to overheat. Fears of radioactivity releases led to a 20 km-radius evacuation around the plant, while workers suffered radiation exposure and were temporarily evacuated at various times. Electrical power was slowly restored for some of the reactors, allowing for automated cooling.

Japanese officials initially assessed the accident as Level 4 on the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) despite the views of other international agencies that it should be higher. The level was successively raised to 5 and eventually to 7, the maximum scale value. The Japanese government and TEPCO have been criticized in the foreign press for poor communication with the public and improvised cleanup efforts. On 20 March, the Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano announced that the plant would be decommissioned once the crisis was over.



The Japanese government estimates the total amount of radioactivity released into the atmosphere was approximately one-tenth as much as was released during the Chernobyl disaster. Significant amounts of radioactive material have also been released into ground and ocean waters. Measurements taken by the Japanese government 30 – 50 km from the plant showed radioactive caesium levels high enough to cause concern, leading the government to ban the sale of food grown in the area. Tokyo officials temporarily recommended that tap water should not be used to prepare food for infants.

A few of the plant's workers were severely injured or killed by the disaster conditions resulting from the earthquake. There were no immediate deaths due to direct radiation exposures, but at least six workers had exceeded lifetime legal limits for radiation and more than 300 had received significant radiation doses. Future cancer deaths due to accumulated radiation exposures in the population living near Fukushima have ranged from none to 100 to a non-peer-reviewed "guesstimate" of 1,000. Fear of ionizing radiation could have long-term psychological effects on a large portion of the population in the contaminated areas. On 16 December 2011 Japanese authorities declared the plant to be stable, although it would take decades to decontaminate the surrounding areas and to decommission the plant altogether.

A small amount of measurable radiation from that event was recorded in the United States.

Ryou-Un Maru was originally built around 1981 as a fishing vessel in the Japanese merchant fleet. Media reports indicated that it was owned by a Hokkaido-based fishing company and had been used for shrimping or squid fishing during its service career. Eventually, however, the ship's 60-year-old owner decided it was too old for continued use and arranged for it to be sold, and had it moored in Aomori Prefecture on Honshu. When the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami struck in March 2011, Ryou-Un Maru broke free of its mooring, setting the vessel adrift. Assuming the vessel had sunk, the ship's owner canceled its registration. Typically Japanese law requires that a ship be disposed of or dismantled properly before allowing registration to be canceled, but due to the disaster an exception was allowed for the Ryou-Un Maru.

However, the ship had not sunk, and instead drifted across the Pacific Ocean for over a year. On March 20, 2012 it was spotted in Canadian waters by Canadian Forces aircraft. As the registration was canceled, the boat had no legal owner responsible for it, causing something of a legal issue. On 4 April 2012, the US Coast Guard dropped a tracking buoy onto the ship to monitor the vessel as it drifted approximately 170 nautical miles southwest of Sitka, Alaska. The next day, the crew of the US Coast Guard cutter Anacapa assessed Ryou-Un Maru's condition.

On 5 April, the Canadian fishing vessel Bernice C attempted to salvage the stricken vessel; it was discovered that a fuel tank had ruptured aboard the derelict and it was impossible to pump out, while an attempt to take Ryou-Un Maru in tow failed.

Accordingly, it was determined that it was necessary to sink the abandoned vessel, lest it become a hazard to navigation or run aground. After Bernice C failed to take Ryou-Un Maru in tow, Anacapa fired upon the abandoned vessel with an Mk 38 25mm chain gun, holing it and causing it to list, taking on water, and eventually sinking approximately 180 miles off the coast of the Alaskan Panhandle, in 1,800-meter deep waters off the Gulf of Alaska.

USCGC Anacapa (WPB-1335)

Class and type: Island-class cutter
Displacement: 164 tons
Length: 110 ft (34 m)
Beam: 21 ft (6.4 m)
Draft: 6.5 ft (2.0 m)
Propulsion: Twin Paxman Valenta 16-CM RP-200M
Speed: 30+ knots
Range: 9,900 miles
Endurance: 6 days
Boats and landing craft carried: 1 - RHI (90 HP outboard engine)
Complement: 22 personnel (3 officers, 19 enlisted)
Armament: 25 mm Mk 38 chain gun, 5 × .50 caliber machine guns, 1 × Mk 19 40MM Grenade Launcher, Various Small Arms
Communications: VHF and HF

As I said, be that as it may, a short time later we began to receive low levels of fallout. We had continued to wear the 200mR dosimeters, just in case and kept a Geiger counter V-700 turned on at all times. Frankly, it was so low-level we almost missed it and then almost dismissed it. And, what was the deal with communications? It suddenly hit me; Tammy said the Sun looked funny.

My mind raced and I tried to recall what I knew about solar cycle 24, the cycle we were in. It was supposed to be a cycle with high activity, but I must be getting old, I couldn't remember anything else.

The weather was changing again, too. Spring came earlier than the year before and we had, unknowingly, reached our peak snowfall. Finally we were able to get into Elko and see if everyone was ok. It was like *the year without a summer*, 1816. Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death, some said. It was temporary and attributed to Tambora erupting. During the '70s concern arose over global warming and or global cooling.

We got plenty warm and that caused the Arctic, Antarctic and Greenland's icecaps to melt. The Gulfstream sank and it got colder in the north which, in turn, increased the snowfall. In turn, the ocean salinity increased causing the Gulfstream to rise. Just how many people had died due to a lack of patience? Too many!

Most of the reason the sun looked funny was the dust in the air from the nuclear exchange. The conflicts had been localized and we were on the other side of the pond. An above average burst of solar radiation had minor effects on some of the infrastructure.

The population in Elko was half of the previous year for various reasons. First and foremost was the lack of food. There wasn't much food to be had and both the roads and rail lines had been snowed closed. Second was the lack of heating fuels in all forms, gas, coal and wood. Other issues contributed to the loss of life but those were related to the first two.

Tammy and Marilyn quickly determined that there was nothing to be had in Elko, except for wheel weights. We had plenty of those ourselves. Most of the folks were carrying openly and not all of the handguns were M1911 or P14s. There were many single action firearms included in the mix. We didn't stay long.

In many ways this situation fit the definition of a PAW. Our inquiries in Elko didn't reveal much. The radios had worked long after we'd gone into the shelter, by several hours. The stations dropped off the air one at a time over a 4 hour period. Did a CME hit the dark side of planet Earth and we turned into it? That would explain the radio stations dropping off over a 4 hour period. One of the last things heard on the radio was a confirmation of a nuclear exchange involving Russia and Europe. That led me to believe that China probably added their 2¢. It would explain the trans-pacific fallout we'd received.

North Korea was… well, North Korea and they couldn't build a long distance missile to save their souls. They had the No-dong-A.

A more extensive redesign of the Scud-B technology may have begun in the same 1988 time-frame as the modification program that resulted in the Scud-C. The No-dong-A heritage appears to in fact go back to the original follow on Scud-B designs developed by the Makeyev OKB of the Former Soviet Union that also produced the Soviet era, Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles. No-dong-A's technologies were transferred to North Korea during the Soviet era years 1987-1988 through 1992. The new missile No-dong-A, variously called No-dong-1, Ro-dong-1, and Scud-D has a potential range/payload capacity of 1,000-1,300 km/700-1,000 kg.

The higher range would cover a wide swath of cities from Tokyo to Taipei. At the extremity of the higher range, an authoritative analyst estimated the CEP of the No-dong-A to be 2,000-4,000 meters before the INS, GPS input technology was introduced in August 2004 along with other refinements through 2006. The Shahab-3B is a further evolutionary development from the Shahab-3, 3A/No-dong-A's, based Taep'o-dong-1 first stage up-rating with further additions extending its range performance to 2,000 kilometers with a 650 kilogram warhead.

A prototype No-dong-A was first detected on a launch pad in May 1990. Two preceding launch failures occurred in May 1990 and one in June 1992. Launch preparation opera-

tions were also detected in the October, November 1990 time frame but no launch was observed by US or Japanese or South Korean naval operations. This was in spite of the North Korean Coastal Radar tracking support operations preparation and the Korean Peoples Naval (KPN) support operations preparation for tracking the flight test as well as possible recovery of the on-board data package and potential No-dong-A warhead recovery. The Chinese have for years operated this way with recoverable data recorders for their strategic rocket flight tests whose technology for this effort was probably transferred to the North Koreans from the DF-61 cooperative project or other missile collaborative efforts.

The KPN deployed one frigate and one minesweeper set thirty kilometers apart along with several smaller KPN vessels. These initial flight tests of the No-dong-A were characterized as emitting no acquirable telemetry with the probable on-board data recorder packages being recovered from the flight test by the KPN. Instead of flying parallel to the North Korean coast as had previously been done with the Scud's this time the North Koreans flew these four missiles out towards Japan into the Sea of Japan.

This October, November 1990 operations may have been an attempted launch that was ultimately scrubbed or training for the follow up flight tests such as in June 1992. Iran had observers present at this exercise since they were in part financing the project for their own interest.

The only successful test flights did not take place until May 29-30, 1993, with an apparently successful single launch 500 km into the Sea of Japan. Three other Scud's not flown to full range and not recovered were launched in addition to the No-dong-A's launch. This first successful flight test of the No-dong-A was almost certainly a lofting high altitude flight with warhead separation being demonstrated. All within the 500 kilometer SCUD-C range profile.

That is, the No-dong-A rose to a much higher altitude with in a 500 kilometer range because if it had been flown to full range it would have impacted on Japanese territory. A further apparently politically delayed flight activity was observed during May 1994. Subsequently more propulsion tests began in August 1994. Those propulsion static test firings in February and August 1994 may have been more related to the future Taep'o-ding-1 launch vehicle development which used an up-rated No-dong-A propulsion system.

As early as April, May 1994 work on the new Taep'o-dong-1 launch facility and gantry umbilical tower was started with its large pre-fabricated concrete apron over top of its launch vehicle gas jet tunnel and it's below ground level facilities equipment. The facilities infrastructure work was also committed to development of the large horizontal assembly MIK ready building and range launch control center as well as the nearby large launch vehicle static test stand. Typically the No-dong-A like the Scud-B's and Scud-C's had been launched from the nearby circular pre-fabricated concrete apron launch site from their mobile TEL associated equipment.

All these construction programs were started during the middle period of the then existing North Korean five year plan (Jan 1, 1991-Jan 1, 1996) as the No-dong-A finished its flight test and went into production. The Taep'o-dong-1 was expected to be flight tested in the middle of the following five year plan (Jan 1, 1996-Jan 1, 2001) as it did August 31, 1998 as required in the State plan requirements. It was clear by early in May 1994 that the testing of the No-dong-A was completed. Taep'-dong-2 was expected to follow in the middle of the follow-up five year plan about 2004 (Jan 1, 2001-Jan 1, 2006) but was delayed into the next five year plan (Jan 1, 2006-Jan 1, 2011 for several reasons.

This massive construction project transformed the site infrastructure into a series of large construction zones heralding the coming new launch vehicle developments first imaged at the R&D facilities of North Korea during February 1994 by US imaging satellites. The uncanny resemblance of the launch facilities of the infrastructure to Chinese and Soviet design approaches did not go unnoticed by the intelligence community. It added more certain credence to the considerable evidence of foreign missile and nuclear contributions to their emerging strategic military programs.

Until July 5, 2006 the flight test program had solely consisted of this May 29-30, 2003 single successful North Korean test to partial range. By the fall of 1993 the No-dong had gone into production in North Korea. As of late 2000 the US Department of Defense reported that North Korea continued to make and field No-dong-A missiles able to strike American forces based in Japan. On July 5, 2006 North Korea conducted at least three or four highly successful operational flights targeting a common predetermined area in the Sea of Japan separate from the twenty two flights conducted through 2006 by Pakistan and Iran. The successful results certainly indicated the end product quality results from the North Korean, Iranian cooperation.

The No-dong-A program has evidently been plagued by numerous technical and financial problems. Some authoritative observers expected that the first production models of the No-dong-A would be available in 1997, with export shipments soon thereafter. However, the CIA did not expect the No-dong-A to be deployed until the end of 1996.

Reflecting the difficulties of assessing the precise status of the program, at a News Briefing on 09 July 1998 Secretary of Defense William Cohen states that "What we can say is that North Korea has completed its development of the No-dong missile, but I am not in a position to comment in terms of when or where or how there has been a deployment of the missile itself."

SSMs - MRBM

NODONG-A
Warhead type: HE, CHEM (thickened VX), Nuclear
Range (km): 1,350-1,600
CEP: several 1000 190-250 km (w/GPS guidance data input INS)
Reaction time (min): 60
Maximum road speed: 70 km/h

Maximum road range: 550 km

They could reach Japan and South Korea and that was about the extent of their reach. We didn't know if North Korea had been involved or not. You could list what we knew on a post-a-note and needed a finely ruled legal tablet to list what we didn't know. But, what did we have?

1. We had several years' worth of fuels, especially coal
2. We had several years' worth of staples in 6 gallon super pails
3. We had a greenhouse and could probably get hay in the area
4. We had a lot of backups
5. We had a lot of gold and silver coins
6. We had cowboy guns and horses, including Champion (Trigger was Leonard Franklin Slye's (Roy Rogers) horse and Champion was Orvon Grover Autry's (Gene Autry) horse).

The only reloading supplies we had were dies for were the .45 Colt and .45-70 Government, black powder ingredients and a ton or more of wheel weights. We could save our brass from our good rifles until we could find someone to reload it. Well, nobody alive today is perfect…

The ground was so wet it would be a year or two before we could work it, if then. Thank God we had a 58,500ft² greenhouse minus the stairwells. Thank God we had a tank of biodiesel and a tank of unprocessed oil. Thank God we were prepared for the next 5-6 wars. Thank God I won the Mega Lotto and we'd save a chunk of it in gold and silver Eagles. And finally, thank God we could let the livestock out and clean up the barn dome, a person almost needed a gas mask.

We hadn't sectioned the greenhouse into temperate, semi-tropical and tropical areas. We bought spices, coffee and tea instead. I imagine we could retrofit it if necessary. On the other hand, what did we know about growing things like coffee? Juan Valdez was never around when you needed him.

(Juan Valdez is a famous fictional character who has appeared in advertisements for the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia since 1959, representing the Colombian coffee farmer. He typically appears alongside his mule Conchita, carrying sacks of harvested coffee beans. He has become an icon for Colombia as well as coffee in general, and Juan Valdez's iconic appearance is frequently mimicked or parodied in television and other media.)

Surprised? If one stops and thinks about it, TV has had an overwhelming impression on the American public. Who is Mrs. Olson? She represents Folgers. Who is Mr. Whipple? He represents Charmin. Mrs. Olson must be more popular than poor old Juan because Folgers has 50% of the market. Now if the Professor were around he could tell us how to grow spices. Sorry, not available, he married Mary Ann and they farm. Not the people from Gilligan's Island, the real Professor and Mary Ann. Really, I read about them.

Back to our situation… we wouldn't be short on vittles. We had several empty doublewides and 60,000ft² was more space than we could handle. The wives club discussed it and informed us they were going back to Elko and find a few families familiar with gardening and maybe a baker. And, when they found the baker, Tammy intended on buying a bread slicing machine.

Each home had one or more ovens and we had the pizza deck. It would be whole wheat bread but what the heck. No way was ol' mercenary me going to give the food away, but we could trade labor credits or something. The first time someone refused to honor their commitment, a public hanging would bring everyone into line. No, reptiles are cold blooded, not me.

In case Boulder was right and this warming trend would be brief, we had to make hay while the sun shined. I got ahold of the former Iowa farmer down in southern Arizona and contracted for all of his next 10 years of production, subject to delivery. Basically told him that if conditions prevented delivery I wasn't obligated and otherwise I'd pay a premium and shipping.

Alan was less than happy when I explained the contract I'd entered into.

"Where are we going to put it Rob?"

"Well… I was thinking more grain silos."

"I'm not so sure they'd be the best choice; how about some concrete grain silos?"

"I don't follow."

"You're from Missouri, right? Surely you must remember those mammoth concrete grain silos."

"Yeah, I remember them. Expensive?"

"They are that. They're cheaper by volume than the grain silos we've put in so far. Kind of like your greenhouse."

"I got a deal on that."

"I know; you like to brag. If we hooked up with a good contractor, we could get them up in 2-3 years. You'd like that because you could go for percentage of completion and hold back the last 10% until the project was finished."

"What about the meantime?"

"Our silos are near empty and we could stack it if necessary."

“What about the hay?”

“Tell Tammy you need another warehouse; a big one that could hold 5 years’ worth of hay.”

“The internet is down.”

“No it’s not. It came up sometime last night. Some websites are still down but the net is up.”

“Tammy, the net is back up. We need a warehouse large enough to hold a 5 year supply of hay.”

“Why?”

“In case Boulder was right.”

The local Ready-mix operator hadn’t made it through the winter. I went shopping.

“I was told you’re the man to talk to about large jobs.”

“What do you need?”

“Want to put in 5 concrete grain silos, big ones.”

“Where?”

“Carlin in Elko Country.”

“When?”

“As soon as I can get a contractor to start.”

“We do silos.”

“The concrete part?”

“The whole thing. You have rail?”

“Two lines.”

“On I-80, right?”

“You’ve got it.”

“How big is big?”

“Big enough to hold 5 years of production from a half section.”

“What are you storing?”

“Corn, soybeans, wheat, barley and oats.”

“No hay?”

“We’re putting it in a warehouse.”

“Only one type of wheat?”

“Two types. We’ll store the durum in an existing Harvestore.”

“Give me your email and I’ll send a quote.”

“We need you to start this year.”

“Hell, we might even finish this year. How do you intend to pay?”

“Bank wire directly to your account. Percentage of completion with 10% down and re-serve.”

“Pretty standard. Ok, I’ll get back to you.”

“Tammy, what did you find?”

“Nothing on clearance. But they have a huge warehouse half completed and the buyer didn’t make it through the winter.”

“When will it be ready?”

“Next year.”

“Any wiggle room on price?”

“He didn’t say so but I think they’re hurting. Probably cost plus 5% and installation.”

“Make him an offer, cash on the barrelhead when it’s done.”

The offer for the grain silos was $5 million, $1 million each or $2 a bushel, if he did all 5 at once. I accepted his offer and had the bank wire the $500,000 down payment. He

wanted 10% down and 20% when they were 30% completed and the contract was otherwise standard. He brought in a large portable batch plant, 10 trucks and a lot of the slip forms. The silos would go outside the greenhouses up near the road. All 5 would be on one side.

Storage silos are cylindrical structures, typically 10 to 90 ft (4 to 30 m) in diameter and 30 to 275 ft (10 to 84 m) in height with the slip form and Jump form concrete silos being the larger diameter and taller silos. They can be made of many materials. Wood staves, concrete staves, cast concrete, and steel panels have all been used, and have varying cost, durability, and airtightness tradeoffs. Silos storing grain, cement and woodchips are typically unloaded with air slides or augers. Silos can be unloaded into rail cars, trucks or conveyors.

Tower silos containing silage are usually unloaded from the top of the pile, originally by hand using a silage fork, which has many more tines than the common pitchfork, 12 vs. 4, in modern times using mechanical unloaders. Bottom silo unloaders are utilized at times but have problems with difficulty of repair.

An advantage of tower silos is that the silage tends to pack well due to its own weight, except in the top few feet. However, this may be a disadvantage for items like chopped wood. The tower silo was invented by Franklin Hiram King.

In Australia and the United States, many country towns or the larger farmers in grain-growing areas have groups of concrete tower silos, known as grain elevators, to collect grain from the surrounding towns and store and protect the grain for transport by train, truck or barge to a processor or to an export port. In bumper crop times, the excess grain is stored in piles without silos or bins, causing considerable losses.

As it happened we had about $2 million available from the previous year plus the almost $5 million from the most recent check. We probably could have covered the warehouse but I wanted the grain and hay. While we should have been in the fields, we were supervising greenhouse operations and tending to the livestock.

The equipment in our dome's kitchen was commercial/industrial grade and we could bake a lot of bread, grind wheat, roll oats and so forth. By centralizing the preparation operation, all of the ovens could be used and we baked a lot of bread. We also made a lot of pasta and dug out some pails of cheese powder to produce products like Mac and cheese. Ziploc bags come in hundreds of sizes. We opened a few boxes and measured the weight of the pasta and cheese separately.

It's boring, we know, but add some fresh veggies, beans and rice and it beats going hungry. We didn't have a lot of meat to sell. However, it was as good a time as any to empty out some of the freezers. Before summer was over, we could hand farm for years using the labor owed. We didn't limit our purchases to the guy in Arizona either because he didn't grow wheat.

I’ve to tell you watching those silos go up was breath taking. Once they started moving the slip forms, it was a 24/7 process. The form could only move when the lower concrete was dry enough, but not too dry.

Slip forming, continuous poured, continuously formed, or slipform construction is a construction method in which concrete is poured into a continuously moving form. Slip forming is used for tall structures, as well as horizontal structures, such as roadways. Slipforming enables continuous, non-interrupted, cast-in-place “flawless” concrete structures which have superior performance characteristics to piecewise construction using discrete form elements. Slip forming relies on the quick-setting properties of concrete, and requires a balance between quick-setting capacity and workability. Concrete needs to be workable enough to be placed into the form and packed, yet quick-setting enough to emerge from the form with strength. This strength is needed because the freshly set concrete must not only permit the form to “slip” upwards but also support the freshly poured concrete above it.

In vertical slip forming the concrete form may be surrounded by a platform on which workers stand, placing steel reinforcing rods into the concrete and ensuring a smooth pour. Together, the concrete form and working platform are raised by means of hydraulic jacks. Generally, the slipform rises at a rate which permits the concrete to harden by the time it emerges from the bottom of the form.

Now, if you ignore the square building and can imagine 5 silos, the above picture would represent what we ended up with:

That's the Plowboy grain elevator in Roscoe, Texas. Unloading silos has always had certain problems and those problems almost drove Harvestore out of business during the early 2000s. The contents of the silo are very heavy and the weight interferes with most unloading devices. We used a *unique* solution, I think. The bottoms of the silos weren't concrete slabs but cones that narrowed to a small hole with a sliding plate that could close off the bottom of the cone.

The edge of the plate was like a knife and could cut through the stream of grain, even cutting grain kernels when necessary. We'd open the plate and allow enough grain to flow through to fill a smaller chamber before closing the plate. This smaller amount of grain was moved to overhead feed bins in the barn dome. We could have accomplished the same by only opening the plate a small distance but the contractor rather insisted or he wouldn't guarantee the system to work. And, it did work as designed.

The warehouse manufacturer wanted to get a jump on construction and asked Tammy if they could hire a contractor to put in the slab with plumbing and electrical feed. She explained about the silos under construction and indicated she'd have to check with me. She went into a little detail about the concrete grain silos. The manufacturer asked for the contractor's phone number or email.

The manufacturer was thinking ahead. The warehouse was a big one and it would be better to have the slab poured while there was that batch plant and ready-mix trucks in Carlin. He got a deal which he'd eventually pass on to us. All the contractor had to emplace was a soil pipe, water line and electrical conduit before pouring. We weren't involved in the deal as it was between the warehouse manufacturer and the concrete contractor. In case you hadn't noticed, the phones were up, part of the time.

By early fall the fields had dried out enough to spread nutrients (manure) and plow. We also disked and would only have to drag harrow come spring. We took in several head of cattle and hogs to have them processed and refill our freezers. We paid for their services with extra beef, pork and chicken. We consumed every bit of the milk produced and all of the eggs.

We sold and bartered enough with the people in Elko country that we covered our operating expenses for the year and only expended the $5 million. We did sell coal and an Elko local hauled and delivered it, giving us $250 per ton.

When the grain and hay shipment arrived from Arizona, the grain went into the silos and the hay was stacked on the slab. We might have storage room for ten years' worth. The Harvestore we used for red winter wheat was empty and the durum silo was low. There was a new process using ultrasonic to clean metal grain silos and we were looking for-

ward to doing that over the next 2 years and using them mostly for durum and possibly rapeseed.

We had bartered and sold the 10,000-gallons of biodiesel and Fred had already started converting the remaining oil into biodiesel. Alan suggested that we plant all available acreage next year in rapeseed to allow us to store up biodiesel production materials. He assured me we had enough seed. He was the ranch manager and I told him to go for it.

Rick Santorum finally got his chance to be president, again. Mitt had been unable to unseat Barack and had his hat in the ring again. The other party had Hillary and Charles Schumer on their campaign trail. Ron Paul had died and wasn't running for the first time in a long time. Sarah was still around, but nobody cared.

Newt is an aquatic amphibian of the family Salamandridae, although not all aquatic salamanders are considered newts. Newts are classified in the subfamily Pleurodelinae of the family Salamandridae, and are found in North America, Europe and Asia.

After the conventions of 2016 it was Rick against Hillary. People were tired of the Clintons. We're having elections? Well, of course. The damage to the infrastructure from that small CME was superficial. That was what took out the communications, not HEMP which would have produced a simultaneous outage. A CME could produce outages and the Earth rotated into the daylight.

I felt sorry for whoever won the election. Our economy was in terrible shape, there was no foreign trade to speak of. Africa had a few essential exports and wanted our exports; they were a drop in the bucket. Due to the Russians dumping gold, the price wallowed in the $1,000 range. We bought more because gold has never been worth nothing. Later, when the price of gold began to recover and the ratio went from 37:1 to 72:1, we bought silver.

With money set aside for 2017 operating expenses, the warehouse and the grain and hay we *managed* our money carefully. We planted rapeseed, only, as a field crop that summer and stored the excess in a Harvestore. We were producing the product for $1 a gallon and selling it to the service stations for $2.50 a gallon, unblended. We recycled those ingredients that lent themselves to recycling, like methanol and used or sold the byproducts like the seed cakes and glycerin.

Using the seed cakes as livestock feed led us to stop buying soybeans and the concrete silo set aside for soybeans was converted to rapeseed storage. Further, not buying soybeans allowed us to buy more of the crops we couldn't grow. It would take some time to extract the oil because of the size of our tanks. This led us to install a 40,000-gallon tank for the extracted oil and use both 10,000-gallon tanks for biodiesel. We also upgraded the equipment to double our daily biodiesel production to 240-gallons per day or ~7,200-gallons per month. $1.50 × 240 × 360 = $129,600 covering Fred's salary handsomely and covering the cost of replacement ingredients.

The thing that makes biodiesel production *counterproductive* is the cost of the energy to produce the product. How much does sun and wind power cost? We were an example of where all electric made sense. We'd given up over 10 acres of crop land but with a single crop, rapeseed, gained some of it back when we eliminated the lane to the various fields. We planted 300 acres of rapeseed the summer of 2017 and got exceptional yields, 2850 pounds/acre.

Twenty pounds of rapeseed yields 1 gallon of oil and 12 pounds of seedcake. We eventually extracted 47,250 gallons of oil and ended up with 513,000 pounds (256.5 tons) of seedcake. It might be a good thing we had the Harvestores to store seedcake in. With the concrete silos holding Corn, soybeans, red wheat, rapeseed and oats and 2 Harvestores holding Durum wheat, we had 3 left to hold barley and or rapeseed. It turned out that the rapeseed variety we were growing was canola.

Canola was bred naturally from rapeseed at the University of Manitoba Canada by Keith Downey and Baldur R. Stefansson in the early 1970s, but it has a very different nutritional profile in addition to much less erucic acid. The name *canola* was derived from *Canadian oil, low acid* in 1978. We used that instead of the GM products, just in case.

While the erucic acid made the seedcake unpalatable to livestock and humans, canola was one of the most consumed oils along with sunflower and safflower oil. Putting in a 40,000-gallon raw oil tank didn't solve our problem, but it helped. After filling the raw oil tank, Fred would spend the winter producing biodiesel and Jim continued to extract the oil as space permitted.

Other winter activities included casting bullets from the melted wheel weights and conducting an inventory of the goods on hand and shopping the restored internet for bargains. We never met a bargain we could pass up if it was something we could use or trade off and we did have a lot of space in the hay warehouse, at the moment. Although it meant extra handling, some of those bargains went into the new warehouse and would be transferred to the other warehouses as space permitted.

I haven't mentioned Gunny much because Gunny had been busy with the tunnels and such. In the winter it was simply too dang cold to get to the range. Most of the time I spent with Gunny was on the range. Gunny puttered around doing any little task he could find to keep his hands busy and mind off the state of the world. Marines were world travelers like their Hymn said. The Air Force hadn't been to the Halls of Montezuma or the shores of Tripoli like they had.

We'd had everything happen except doomsday. The global warming had finally caused the Gulf Stream to sink, cooling the weather. In turn agriculture had suffered and that situation led to regional nuclear wars. At the beginning of the war, Earth had been brushed by a small CME with the US turning into it and suffering some EMP effects. Things had seemed to turn around and it was now warming… but, was Boulder right about a brief warming period followed by a further cooling period?

“The changing Arctic climate is complicating matters,” Kay says. “We can’t measure natural variability now because, when temperatures warm and the ice thins, the ice variability changes and is not entirely natural.”

For the moment, we were pretty well set and had enough supplies amassed to last a lifetime for us and the descendants of our employees. We could have produced our own grain and hay… but we had a contract with that farmer in Arizona to honor. With that in mind, we continued to grow canola. But we were limited on how much we could process and our extraction method wasn’t the best there was.

In a move intended to resolve that problem we had more of the 40,000-gallon Containment Solutions double wall tanks installed. While we would briefly lose an acre or two of our farming area, once the tanks were installed and covered over, the ground was again available. Meanwhile we ordered a new biodiesel setup.

We elected to go to an alternative, catalyst-free method for transesterification using supercritical methanol at high temperatures and pressures in a continuous process. In the supercritical state, the oil and methanol are in a single phase, and reaction occurs spontaneously and rapidly. The process can tolerate water in the feedstock; free fatty acids are converted to methyl esters instead of soap, so a wide variety of feedstocks can be used. Also the catalyst removal step is eliminated. High temperatures and pressures are required, but energy costs of production are similar or less than catalytic production routes.

We had been using mechanical extraction, termed *crushing* or *pressing*. This method is typically used to produce the more traditional oils (e.g., olive, coconut etc.), and it is preferred by most *health-food* customers in the United States and in Europe. There are several different types of mechanical extraction. Expeller-pressing extraction is common, through the screw press and ram press. Oil seed presses are commonly used in developing countries, and among people for whom other extraction methods would be prohibitively expensive.

The processing of vegetable oil in commercial applications is commonly done by chemical extraction, using solvent extracts, which produces higher yields and is quicker and less expensive. The most common solvent is petroleum-derived hexane. This technique is used for most of the *newer* industrial oils such as soybean and corn oils.

Our new setup would include a hexane extraction processor and we devoted tanks for storing the hexane. Apparently others had the same idea concerning biodiesel and we found ready customers for our lye. When it came to methanol and hexane, there was a bit of a resource war. We outbid the opposition and got what we wanted. Jim and Fred were sent to school at the manufacturers’ to learn how to use the new equipment.

We spent a lot of money during that period for the equipment, supplies and tanks. What the heck, we had the money to spend. And, there was the paper put out by Boulder…

Doomsday Preppers – Chapter 3

The warming and warm spell lasted around 10 years. The first 2 were the warming period and the last 8 were the warm period. Then, it began to cool off again. We'd read the paper put out by Boulder… and we were ready. As it began to cool again we carefully went over our inventories and filled any holes. We advised the folks in Elko that we were beginning round 2 of an unlimited round fight against Mother Nature. They would do well to stock up on resources to avoid what had happened the first time.

Around the world civilization had been rebuilding itself in their PAW environments. When the UN had been formed 80 some years back, it had 2 working languages, English and French. It now had 6 official languages, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. A frog is a frog and you can't change that. What was changed was the elimination of all but English as an official UN language. The French, what there were left of them, protested. Everyone ignored their protests because they spoke English even if they preferred not to. In other cases, there weren't any speakers of some languages and very few of others.

The UN facilities in Europe had been wiped out and all the UN had left was New York. It was still the *Naked City*, with a population under 1 million, including commuters. The US population was down to 1880 levels, circa 50 million. The government was smaller, lacking the tax base for a larger working force. The US had written off most of the outstanding debt because it was owed to foreign countries. A small portion was paid off as opposed to being written off and was paid in gold to Americans. There was no balance of trade to worry about. Before the regional wars, the US had the largest negative net exports of any country in the world, e.g. imports exceeded exports.

Because we hadn't been involved in the regional nuclear wars our military assets were intact, although outdated. The actual military was very small and all volunteers. Militias were prevalent in populated areas. Some laws had been repealed and some that should have been were simply ignored, like the NFA of 1934 and all that followed. Very few companies were building firearms in the US, Ruger and Smith & Wesson being the two most prominent.

Springfield Armory in Illinois was still around building Main Battle Rifles to shoot up the millions of rounds of 7.62×51mm ammo stored around the country. Douglas now supplied all of their barrels and they were cryogenically treated. The new Super Match ran 4 ounces of gold. It included the scope mount, flashhider with a bayonet lug and a Harris bipod.

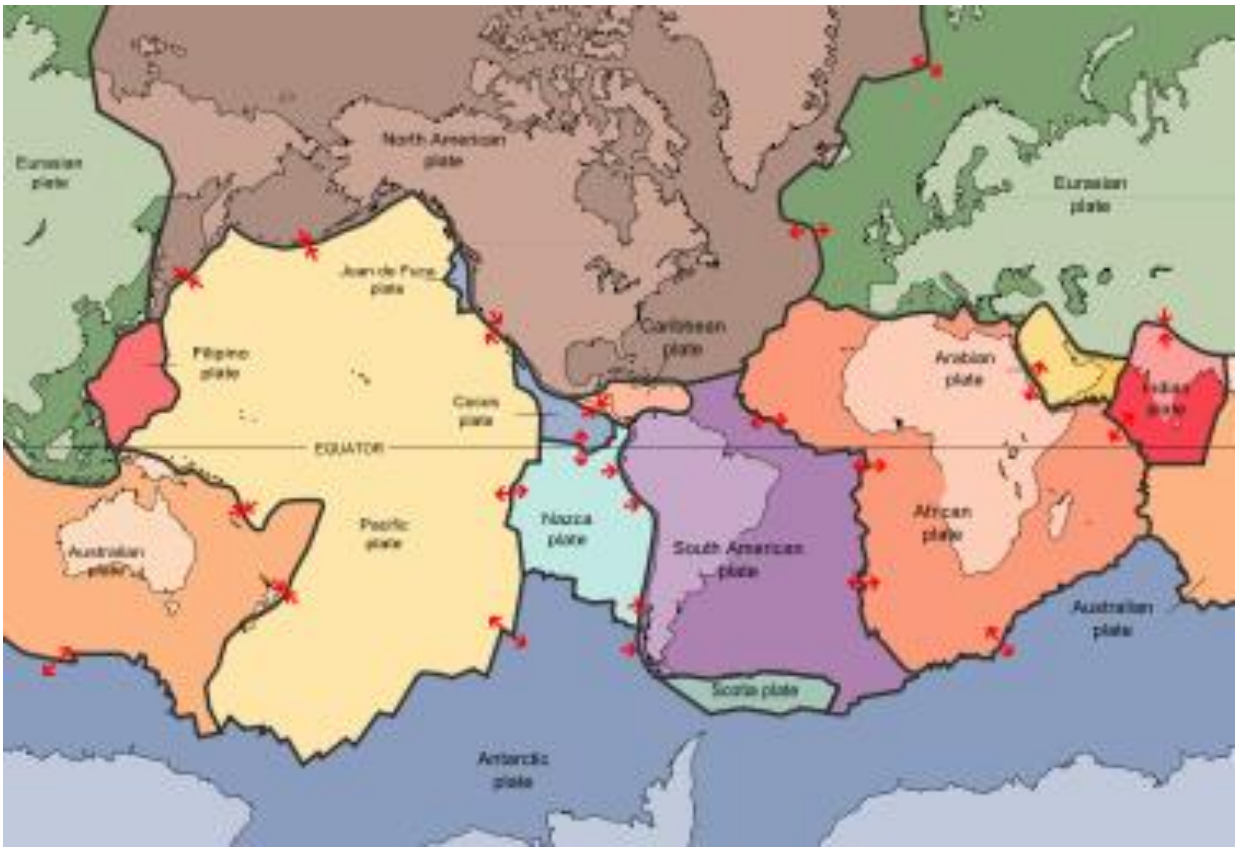
After we got the gold for our Treasuries, we bought more Super Match rifles. Everyone had one now; either an old rifle or one of the new rifles. All rifles were test fired in a Ransom Rest and Tammy and I took the 2 most accurate and Alan got the 3rd. There really wasn't that much difference in those 3 rifles, .05" at 100 meters. We now had a huge supply of 7.62×51mm ammo including M118LR and Hornady 178gr 7.62×51mm not .308.

Didn’t we have enough guns? Were we trying to copy that guy on the TV show Doomsday Preppers? No to both, you can never have too many guns and the guy on TV might have had 70 guns, but each one was different. That was at best, foolish, and at worst stupid because he need so many different calibers of ammo. Our hand gun ammo included:

.22LR (dual use)
9mm
.45acp
.45 Colt (dual use)

And, our long gun ammo included:

5.56×45mm
7.62×51mm (with some .308 thrown in)
.338 Lapua
.416 Barrett
.45-70 Government
.50BMG
12 gauge

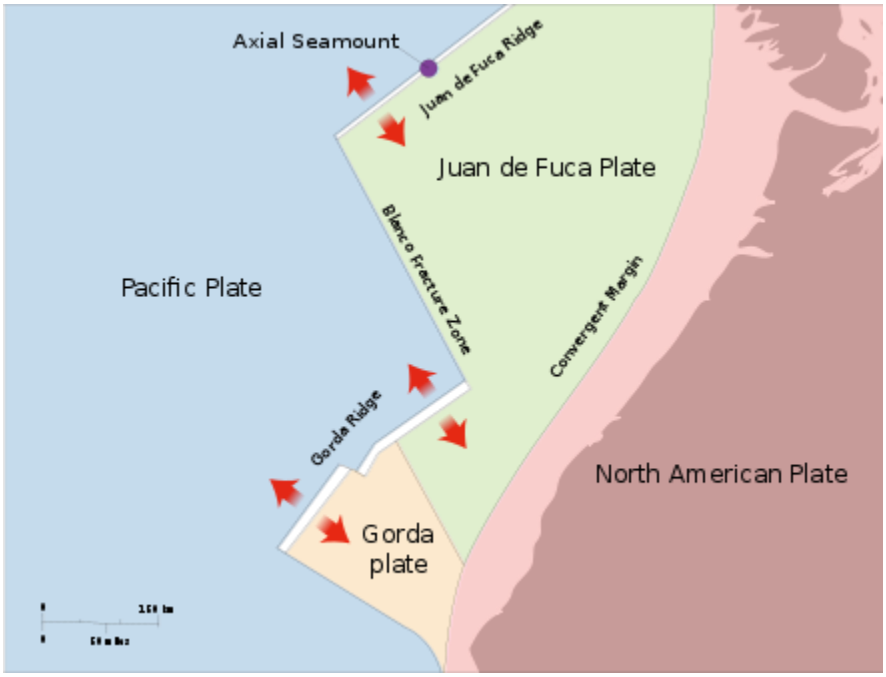


We took advantage of the recovery to equip the ranch with a full line of Dillon Precision equipment to reload the cartridges we previously lacked the ability to reload and bought most of our powders from Hodgdon (Hodgdon was a natural selection because they produced Pyrodex) and bullets from Hornady. Primers came from whoever was cheaper as long as they were brand name primers of recent manufacture. Many were CCI. As it was, 11 different ammo sizes presented its own problems.

Man. I've got a bunch of pictures on my computer. This one is a flat view of the planet Earth's tectonic plates. The one that concerned us was the junction of the North American Plate and the Pacific Plate. We should have kept the triple junction in mind. It's shown on that map although not identified as such.

My reference is to the triple junction formed by the Gorda Plate, North American Plate and the Juan de Fuca Plate commonly known as Cascadia or the Cascadian subduction zone. The subduction zone was responsible for creating the Cascade Range of volcanos. Why should we worry about volcanos considering all we'd been through? The reason was rather simple, they were to our west and our winds at this latitude were westerly's. So although we might not have much of a problem here because of an earthquake, if the earthquake caused the volcanos to erupt, we were in deep dodo.

Here's a better picture of the Triple Junction:



Therein came another lesson for some of the staff… learning reloading. It wasn't any more difficult than buying some powder in Elko and asking the dealer who his biggest

customer was for reloading supplies. Said customer told us he wanted to get his hands on some Dillon equipment because he had a lot of ammo to reload. Most of it was in the calibers we used and by letting him use our equipment we got the dies setup properly. For the calibers he didn't reload, but we wanted to, he set up the dies (.45 Colt and .45-70 Government).

Since we couldn't reload rimfire, we bought a few dozen cases, mixing up the loads and the brands. We bought 12 gauge flares normally used in flare guns on boats. And to back that up, we bought specialty cartridges in .45acp. Those included flares and shot shells. As a matter of fact, we bought shot shells in every hand gun caliber except .22LR.

Wait, there's more! Some of the flare rounds came from Firequest and they sell all kinds of exotic 12 gauge ammo. We got a little of this, a little of that and a large quantity of buck and ball. Well, they call it something else, but it was buck and ball pure and simple and not altogether inexpensive.

Once the staff had a handle on reloading, we loaded them down with all of our empty boxer primed brass and told them to have fun. We didn't have much Berdan primed brass because I didn't buy any ammo with Berdan primers. Given the quantity of new and reloaded boxer primed ammo we ended up with, any *leftover* Berdan primed cases were sold for scrap.

Why are we still prepping? Doomsday hasn't happened, yet. When I was younger there was a product made by Diamond called a Strike Anywhere match. The matches are still made; however they're banned in many places, like airplanes. A few years back I saw a warning on one of the forums about loading up on strike anywhere matches and a link was provided to a company that sold them by the case.

I guess I had my head stuck where the sun didn't shine and I didn't buy any. Was that ever an M-I-S-T-A-K-E! Tammy found a company that would ship the Diamond matches by the case, Jarden Home Brands. They owned Diamond now. They suggested that the order be large because of the Hazmat handling charge, ~$30 per package. The largest package Diamond had was a case which contained 48 250-count boxes of matches. The most they would ship to one address at one time was 3 cases (packages). That was 36,000 matches so she told them to go ahead and she'd call back later.

The next day she called and asked if her order had been shipped. It hadn't but was schedule for pickup that day. The next day she called and they confirmed her order had been shipped. She ordered 3 additional cases. She kept his up until we received the first shipment. We had 5 more orders to receive. Now, 6 × 36,000 = 216,000, a good start.

Where do you store your hazardous materials? We couldn't store them in the bunker and didn't want to store more than a case in either shelter. We built a new, smaller

above ground bunker and started the reordering process all over again. During the interim, the cases were stored on pallets and covered with waterproof tarps.

The new bunker was a double wall aboveground shelter with 20” of soil between the two walls and another 20” of soil covering the overhead. Our only interest was preventing spread of a fire should one develop and an ordinary steel door sufficed as a blast door. Anyone need strike anywhere matches; $5 a box. Ammo? It depends on where you live and if you don’t live on the ranch, buy it in Elko, they’re cheaper.

As I said, it took 2 years to enter the 2nd cooling cycle. The cold ran about 10 years this time before it started to warm again. We were getting too old for this crap.

“Tammy, with limited exceptions everything on the ranch is owned by the corporation. I’ve been thinking about what to as far as estate planning goes. A corporation is created under the laws of a state as a separate legal entity that has privileges and liabilities that are distinct from those of its members. There are many different forms of corporations, most of which are used to conduct business. Early corporations were established by charter. Most jurisdictions now allow the creation of new corporations through registration.

“An important contemporary feature of a corporation is limited liability. If a corporation fails, shareholders may lose their investments, and employees may lose their jobs, but neither will be liable for debts to the corporation's creditors.

“Despite not being natural persons, corporations are recognized by the law to have rights and responsibilities like natural persons. Corporations can exercise human rights against real individuals and the state, and they can themselves be responsible for human rights violations. Corporations are conceptually immortal but they can *die* when they are *dissolved* either by statutory operation, order of court, or voluntary action on the part of shareholders. Insolvency may result in a form of corporate *death*, when creditors force the liquidation and dissolution of the corporation under court order, but it most often results in a restructuring of corporate holdings. Corporations can even be convicted of criminal offenses, such as fraud and manslaughter. However corporations are not living entities in the way that humans are.

“Although corporate law varies in different jurisdictions, there are four characteristics of the business corporation: Legal personality, Limited liability, transferable shares and centralized management under a board structure.”

“So…?”

“The point is that we can’t last through too many more weather cycles of hot and cold. We have several options about what to do with the corporation. The easiest would be to issue one share per person living here. If we did that they’d own the corporation in equal amounts and would all have a stake in the future of the ranch. Alan, as ranch manager, probably has the greatest insight into this operation.

“A Nevada corporation is a corporation incorporated under Chapter 78 of Nevada Revised Statutes of the US state of Nevada.

“Nevada, like the state of Delaware (see Delaware corporation), is well known as a corporate haven. Many major corporations are incorporated in Nevada, particularly corporations whose headquarters are located in California and other Western states.

“Organizers of a business generally have a choice on where to incorporate the business. In the United States, corporations are generally organized pursuant to state law, rather than federal law. Moreover, a business need not establish or maintain a physical presence in a state in order to incorporate under the state's general corporation law. If the corporation transacts business in a state other than the state of incorporation, it is considered by the other state to be a foreign corporation. See NRS Chapter 80. For example, a business may be headquartered in San Jose, California but incorporated in Nevada. The corporation is a Nevada corporation and the State of California will consider it to be a foreign corporation. See California Corporations Code Section 171.

“In the United States, states generally, but not invariably, follow the internal affairs doctrine. *The internal affairs doctrine is a conflict of laws principle which recognizes that only one State should have the authority to regulate a corporation's internal affairs ... because otherwise a corporation could be faced with conflicting demands.*" Under the internal affairs doctrine, courts will generally apply the law of the state of incorporation to the *internal affairs* of the corporation.

“States can derive revenues through the incorporation of businesses. These revenues include direct payments to the state in the form of filing and other fees. The state can also receive revenues indirectly through businesses (law firms, resident agents, accounts and other service providers) to corporations. The Nevada legislature has tried to make Nevada an attractive alternative to Delaware as a state for incorporation. In many instances, it has tried to *out Delaware* Delaware.

“Nevada's laws offer flexibility to a board of directors in managing the affairs of a corporation, and permit management to put in place strong protection from hostile takeovers. It also provides extremely strong protection against piercing the corporate veil, where a corporation's owners can be held responsible for the actions of a corporation. As of 2007, in all of the court cases involving a corporation, in a period of twenty years, in only one case has the piercing of a corporate veil been permitted under Nevada law, and in this single case the reason was because of fraud on the part of the corporation's owners.

“Because the provisions on *piercing the corporate veil* are corporate governance matters, if a corporation chartered in California, for example, (which has much more creditor friendly provisions permitting this) is sued anywhere, California law applies, but if a corporation chartered in Nevada, which operates only in California, is sued in a California court, the California court would use Nevada law in determining what the requirements

permitting this. On the issue of *piercing the corporate veil*, Nevada law applies, even if the corporation only operates in California and has never had any other contact with Nevada and is simply chartered there as a *flag of convenience*.

“Nevada permits the corporation's articles of incorporation to vest authority to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws exclusively in the directors, so that shareholders would not be able to change the corporation's bylaws.

“Disputes over the internal affairs of Nevada corporations are usually filed in the Nevada District Courts, from which judgments can be appealed to the Supreme Court of Nevada, the state supreme court. Because of the large number of corporations chartered in Nevada, the courts in that state are more focused on the application of corporate law than the courts of most other states. Nevada's courts are developing a strong body of case law that serves to give corporations and their counsel guidance on matters of corporate governance, although Delaware and some other states have a larger body of such case law.

“Nevada's tax structure is also a large benefit to incorporation in Nevada. Nevada has no franchise tax. It also has no corporate income tax or personal income tax. While Nevada likes to promote that there are *no corporation taxes* in the state, there is an annual $200 *Business License Fee* which is paid to the Nevada Department of Taxation in some cases. Nevada and Texas are the only two states that do not have information sharing agreements with the Internal Revenue Service.”

“I can follow that, so the point is…?”

“We need to decide how we are going to divide up the corporation.”

“Why not leave Alan and Jennifer Rowland with a 51% share and divide the balance equally among the other people living here?”

“Is that what you’d prefer to do?”

“Hey, I married into this and my share is what you say it is. But, yes, I would prefer doing it that way. Now, what’s the skinny on the 20°N to 20°S?”

“The only countries with good agricultural production are located between 20°N and 20°S. That’s roughly the area between Mexico City and Vitória, Brazil.”

“Why is that important?”

“If this cold becomes pervasive, we might have to relocate to somewhere in that region. The thing about it that bothers me is leaving the majority of our infrastructure here. We can move the supplies, for certain. The other things like the fuels may have to remain in place for the moment. We could transport the fuels after we get a handle of moving the

supplies. That goes for our electrical generation equipment, livestock, farm equipment and so forth."

"How much do you think it would cost to move?"

"If you include the purchase of land, about $5 million; but I would like to duplicate what we have here down there."

"What about the contents of the silos? You do know that México has some strongest gun laws in the world?"

"Then, México won't do. I think we can also eliminate El Salvador too because of MS-13."

We eventually got back to the subject at hand, the estate. Tammy pointed out that she was my junior and women had a greater life expectancy. Short of my doing some fancy legal maneuvering ahead of time, the decision would rest with her in the end. We both had wills drawn up giving controlling interest of the corporation to Alan and Jennifer and dividing the remaining 49% among the other residents.

We received the last Mega Lotto payment in 2031 and were still waiting for doomsday. The on again, off again weather changes had finally stopped. The new permanent weather was more like the Canadian provinces than what it had been like before the whole thing started.

Doomsday Preppers – Epilogue

The aging process finally caught up with Rob, Tammy, Gunny and Marilyn. Tammy explained to Jennifer and me about the decision Rob and she had made many years before about Jennifer and me getting the controlling interest.

In a nutshell, the US had changed for the better. The restored government was smaller and was finally subservient to the states. Things that most concerned us during the 1st decade of the 21st century no longer mattered.

The corporation was beyond wealthy having taken on full scale biodiesel production. The retained earnings weren't a number on a balance sheet but cold hard cash in the form of gold and silver coins. We had eventually encroached on adjoining land vitalizing it the organic way using manure and cover crops until the land was fertile. One addition was used to provide the other crops to keep the silos full and the hay warehouse full. The other additions were used to grow canola.

Maintaining our supply of methanol and hexane became our most difficult task. We recovered all of the methanol we could and recycled it which helped. We had enough spare parts to conceivably last us for generations. Hexane, a petroleum product, is a hydrocarbon with the chemical formula C_6H_{14}; that is, an alkane with six carbon atoms.

The term may refer to any of four other structural isomers with that formula, or to a mixture of them. In the IUPAC nomenclature, however, hexane is the unbranched isomer (n-hexane); the other four structures are named as methylated derivatives of pentane and butane. IUPAC also uses the term as the root of many compounds with a linear six-carbon backbone, such as 2-methylhexane C_7H_{16}, which is also called *isoheptane*.

Hexanes are significant constituents of gasoline. They are all colorless liquids at room temperature, with boiling points between 50 and 70 °C, with gasoline-like odor. They are widely used as cheap, relatively safe, largely unreactive, and easily evaporated non-polar solvents. We now used isohexane because it was safer.

About the only discussion worth mentioning is this near earth object (NEO). They haven't named it and are referring to it by some kind of code, 2035 MN_6. It's been rated a 6 on the Torino scale – A close encounter by a large object posing a serious but still uncertain threat of a global catastrophe. Critical attention by astronomers is needed to determine conclusively whether a collision will occur. If the encounter is less than three decades away, governmental contingency planning may be warranted.

The current system of provisional designation of minor planets (asteroids, centaurs and trans-Neptunian objects) has been in place since 1925, and superseded several previous conventions, each of which was rendered obsolete by the increasing numbers of minor planet discoveries.

The first element in a minor planet's provisional designation is the year of discovery, followed by two letters and, optionally, a number.

The first letter indicates the half-month of the object's discovery within that year – “A” denotes discovery in the first half of January, “D” is for the second half of February, “J” is for the first half of May (“I” is not used), and so on until “Y” for the second half of December. The first half is always the 1st through to the 15th of the month, regardless of the numbers of days in the second “half”.

The second letter and the number indicate the order or discovery within that half-month. The 8th minor planet discovered in the second half of March 1950, for example, would be provisionally designated 1950 FH. But since modern techniques typically yield far more than 25 objects (again, “I” is not used) in a half-month, a subscript number is appended to indicate the number of times that the letters have cycled through. Thus, the 28th minor planet discovered in the second half of March 1950 would be 1950 FC_1. For technical reasons, such as ASCII limitations, the subscript is sometimes “flattened out”, so that this could be written 1950 FC1. The subscripts were first used with 1926 GA_1.

An idiosyncrasy of this system is that the second letter is listed before the number, even though the second letter is considered “least-significant”. This is in contrast to most of the world's numbering systems.

In the year 2004, the first minor planet discovery of January 1 would be named 2004 AA. Then the naming continues to 2004 AZ, followed by 2004 AA_1. The next discovery is 2004 AB_1, then 2004 AC_1, etc. Eventually one could get to something like 2004 AA_{276}. Following the end of the half-month, the next body to be discovered would receive the provisional designation 2004 BA.

The large trans-Neptunian object 90377 Sedna had the provisional designation 2003 VB_{12}, meaning it was discovered in the first half of November 2003, and that it was the 302nd object (B->2 + 12*25 = 302) discovered during that time. 28978 Ixion, originally 2001 KX_{76}, was discovered in the latter half of May 2001, and was the (X->23 + 76*25 = 1923) 1,923rd object discovered during that time.

As mentioned earlier, in practice the numerical suffix is not always subscripted. For example, the provisional designation of 7934 Sinatra can be expressed as either “1989 SG1” or “1989 SG_1” (that is, 1989 is the discovery year, “S” is the eighteenth half-month of the year, and “G1” or “G_1” indicates this was the thirty-third discovery during that half-month).

As of March 20, 2012, the busiest half-month was the second half of October 2005. During those 16 days, 13,276 minor planets were observed and provisionally discovered, the last one being 2005 UA_{531} (a precovery of 2010 CC_{172}); the highest-numbered main designation is 2005 UX_{530}.). As observations made then are further analyzed, that number may continue to climb slightly. Precovery (short for “pre-discovery recovery”) is a term used in astronomy that describes the process of finding the image of an object in

old archived images or photographic plates for the purpose of calculating a more accurate orbit.

If it’s going to hit, I sure hope they warn us.